

**City Manager's  
Status and Information Update  
May 24, 2019**



**Engineering**

**Flower Avenue East Reconstruction**

The contractor, Luck Brothers, is wrapping up minor punchlist items, survey monumentation, handicap ramps, and lawn restoration work.

**Flynn Pool Filter Replacement**

J.E. Sheehan Construction, the contractor, has installed the new pool filter piping, strainer and accessories, and is about 90% Complete. The filter system will be tested and ready for deployment for the 2019 swim season.

**Central Street Sidewalk Project**

The Contractor, Luck Brothers, has completed excavation and removal of over 2,000 feet of sidewalk on Central St and Remington St, in preparation for installation of new sidewalk. Work has progressed on Burchard Street as well to install sidewalk where none previously existed and upgrade handicap ramps.

**City Hall Roof Repairs**

Repairs were made to the lower level roof at City Hall, which experienced leaks on multiple occasions over the winter and spring. The entire roof system will be replaced in 2020 as part of the City Court Project, but the repairs were necessary to get us by another year.



**Cooper Street Sanitary Sewer Outfall**

Atlantic Testing Laboratories completed boring samples to determine depth to bedrock for the new sewer main alignment which runs through backyards between Thompson Street and Leray St. The design of the Cooper Street Outfall is progressing. Detailed evaluation of certain sections of pipe which were not passable for televising will be completed in the next few weeks by a contractor with specialized equipment. Once results are in, the amount of 24" sewer pipe replacement will be known, and the remaining sections will received a cured in place liner, which reduces excavation costs significantly by using the existing pipe as the host for the liner.

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**Fairgrounds Stadium – Concrete Patio**

DPW completed installation of a 24'x48' concrete patio with a stamped finish by a contractor. The patio will be used for viewing and tables and chairs along the first base line for events.



**Harrison Street Sewer Project**

Design is progressing for the sewer reconstruction project.

**Huntington Street Sidewalk Project CDBG Phase 3-4**

Concrete Slipform Inc (CSI) has completed about 95% of the \$266,203 project, including 11,000 square feet of sidewalk and (16) handicap ramps. Only minor punchlist items remain to be completed.

**Sherman-Iroquois Intersection Improvements**

Plans are out for bid to make geometry changes to the right turn from Iroquois onto Sherman St and improve handicap ramps.

**Sidewalk Improvement District #13**

The Contractor, Luck Brothers, has completed excavation and removal of sidewalk on Pleasant Street North. Gill St sidewalk removal has begun and portions of retaining walls and sidewalk have been installed. The \$244,438 project includes almost 15,000 square feet of sidewalk in the areas of Indiana Ave North, Gill St, and Bronson St.



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**Thompson Park Retaining Wall #7 Project**



DEW Builders is the Construction Company at the Thompson Park Retaining Wall #7 Project. Work completed new 8' blacktop walkway and Grass Margin on Thursday. The project is 100% complete and the walkway is open to the public.

**Thompson Blvd Street Reconstruction (Franklin St to Park Circle)**

Design is being finalized on reconstruction of this 2,000 foot section of road. DPW and Engineering met on site to address drainage issues so DPW can order catch basins and plan for installation this summer, before the cold in place pavement recycling operation is performed by contractor. Early to mid July is targeted for the paving work.

**Western Blvd**

The contractor, Black Horse Group, worked on remaining curbing and directional islands on the



Gaffney Drive and Commerce Park Dr approaches this week and constructed sidewalk, paved multi-purpose trail, and replaced the temporary asphalt on the roundabout.

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**Information Technology**

We are pleased to announce that there is now Wi-Fi access being provided at the City's Baseball field and Grandstand area. We will continue to expand the Wi-Fi by increasing its signal strength and the coverage area in the coming months.



**Public Works & Electric Department**

**Constituent Complaint**

A recent complaint regarding a sidewalk obstruction on Mill Street has been resolved by National Grid who located a replacement manhole cover which had been missing for a period of time. A new cover was installed and the temporary barriers removed.



**Fairgrounds Grandstand**

DPW Crews have been working at the Fairgrounds Grandstand Complex on a host of projects to support the Wizzards Baseball program.

Electric crews have been working on a series of lighting upgrades in the restrooms and locker facilities as well as the public walkways within the grandstand.



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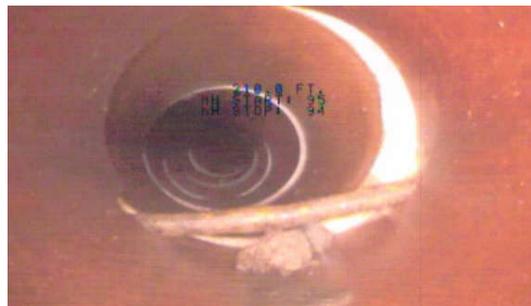
In addition, crews have restored the main field lighting to 100% with the replacement of 5 failed lighting fixtures and 25 bulbs dispersed among the 6 towers.

DPW Sewer & Road crews worked with City Engineering to install a 24x48 concrete pad to replace the 1<sup>st</sup> baseline box seats at the Grandstand. The new "Party" pad has a stamped stone finish as opposed to a traditional broom finish. Site restoration work remains to be completed over the next few days. To date, 93 hours have been logged on this project.



The 2019 road painting season is struggling to get into full swing with the significant rains and cooler temperatures throughout most of May. Crosswalks in the Ohio St area have been completed and will be followed by work in the Washington Street corridor next week. In addition, signage request for Thompson Park will occupy the crew during the inclement weather. NYS DOT will begin their centerline striping in the City in June.

DPW sewer crews conducting a routine inspection of the storm sewer main on South Indiana Avenue in advance of paving operations discovered a cross-bore through the bottom of the 10" clay pipe. Cross-bores generally occur when a utility service line being installed using directional drilling or jacking techniques penetrates a pipe in the path of the drill. In cases of gas lines penetrating sewers, the consequences can be catastrophic should the gas line be ruptured by sewer cleaning operations. We have forwarded this information to National Grid Gas and City Water to determine ownership of the pipe. Once we determine ownership, the pipe will be excavated, the cross-bore removed and the pipe repaired.



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**Planning Department**

**NDC Housing Program - 825 Academy Street**

Work continues to progress on the housing rehabilitation project at 825 Academy Street. The project was developed and is being implemented through the NDC Program. The NDC Program is a partnership between Neighbors of Watertown, Inc., the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) and the City of Watertown. The main goal of the program is to rehabilitate residential properties that the City acquires through tax foreclosure or by other means. Neighbors of Watertown oversees the construction work and DANC provides the project financing. The City provides the property to rehabilitate and receives up to the amount owed in back taxes upon the sale to the new homeowner, if the project can financially support it. Exterior work is complete and work is starting on installing mechanicals inside. It is estimated that the renovation should be complete by mid-July, and the two-unit home will be put up for sale at market value.

**Sewall's Island**

Work is continuing on the Sewall's Island Remediation Project. The contractor hired by the NYS DEC for the project, The Environmental Service Group NY Inc, has completed the interim site grading by filling low spots and cutting away high spots to contour the land. They have also installed rip-rap in areas where there are steeper slopes and have removed scrap metal and other debris from the site. Work will begin soon to install the soil cover over most of the island, except in those areas where concrete slabs are currently located. The existing concrete slabs will be left in place to serve as the site cover.



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**Strategic Goals and Objectives Open Houses**

Six open houses have been scheduled in June for the Mayor, City Council and staff to share the Strategic Goals and Objectives they've created, and give City residents an opportunity to share their feedback. The same information will be available at each of the locations. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. The schedule of open houses will be:

**June 11, 2019**

12-2p- Community Action Planning Council  
6-8p- NNY Philanthropy Center

**June 12, 2019**

12-2p Cornell Cooperative Extension  
6-8p- North Elementary School

**June 13, 2019**

12-2p- Watertown Municipal Arena  
6-8p- Sherman Elementary School

**Comprehensive Plan**

Steering Committee members discussed recommendations for the North Side and Ohio neighborhoods at the seventh Steering Committee meeting on Wednesday, May 22, 2019. During this phase of the planning process, the Steering Committee is examining the City's neighborhoods one-by-one and formulating recommendations for each of them. The next meeting will be at 3 p.m. on Thursday, June 20, 2019, and will focus on the Knickerbocker neighborhood. Elan Planning, the lead consultants on the project, will also present the preliminary findings from their Zoning Diagnostic at the next meeting. The diagnostic will be a complete evaluation of the City's Zoning Ordinance and its current functionality.

The poster features a background image of a city street with a building and a street sign. The text on the poster reads: "City of Watertown City Council Strategic Goals and Objectives Open Houses YOU ARE INVITED!". Below this, it states: "The Watertown City Council has developed a series of Goals and Objectives to set a plan of action for the City for the next 5-10 years. The public is invited to come learn more about the Goals and Objectives City Council has identified as priorities and provide feedback. This is your City, we want to hear from you!". A table lists the dates and times for the open houses: June 11, 2019 (12-2p- Community Action Planning Council, 6-8p- NNY Philanthropy Center); June 12, 2019 (12-2p Cornell Cooperative Extension, 6-8p- North Elementary School); and June 13, 2019 (12-2p- Watertown Municipal Arena, 6-8p- Sherman Elementary School). The City of Watertown seal is at the bottom right. At the bottom of the poster, it says: "For more information, please contact: Geoff Urda (315) 785-7725, or gurda@watertown-ny.gov".



**Summer Urban Forestry Assistant**

The City's 2019 summer urban forestry assistant has started work this week. This position is funded through the Department of Public Works and administered through the Department of Planning and Community Development. This employee is responsible for the care of approximately 180 newly planted trees as well as several hundred recently planted trees located throughout the City. Duties will primarily include

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watering and mulching, however, the candidate will be required to complete other related work as needed.

**Parks and Recreation**



The Armed Forces Day Parade took place on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. At the parade the City of Watertown and Jefferson County were recognized as a Great American Defense Community. Only 5 communities were chosen across the US.



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The Playground equipment at the Fairgrounds has been removed due to safety concerns. An inspection was completed by Certified Playground Inspector Scott Weller. Our Safety Officer Pat Salvatore also assessed the equipment and agreed with Mr. Weller's recommendation. Superintendent Gardner is looking into possible grant opportunities to replace the equipment.



A Spa Show is scheduled to take place at the Watertown Municipal Arena from Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>-Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. Discounted spas are available for sale.



Superintendent Gardner appeared on WWNY TV 7 News on Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00am to start the process of communicating to the public about the trial carry in/carry out policy at Thompson Park. Meetings are also scheduled with Mark Gaines from NBC Watertown and Johnny Spezzano from the Border 106.7.



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A tentative agreement has been reached between the City of Watertown and the Watertown Wolves. City Council will vote on the 3 year contract at a meeting in June.



On Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm the Mayor, City Council Members, City Staff and members from the community help with the official opening of the North Hamilton Playground with a Ribbon Cutting. The North Hamilton playground equipment was purchased through CDBG funding. Great team work by the Planning Department, Parks and Recreation Department and DPW Department made this possible.

The lights at the Duffy Dome have been replaced. Members from the City Electric Department completed the task with assistance from Parks and Recreation.



The concrete pad has been poured at the Duffy Dome. Members from the DPW Department worked well to get this job completed in a very timely manner.

