

**City Manager's
Status and Information Update
June 14, 2019**



United Way – Over the Edge

Saturday, June 8th, Alfreda Augustus made the descent down Midtown Towers. As some of the City Staff cheered her on, she bravely took that first step off the top of the building and made her way down 16 stories. The big smile on her face when she reached the bottom says it all!



A huge, heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped her *surpass* her fundraising goal. The donations she received will be split equally between these three United Way agencies: American Red Cross of NNY, Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County, and PIVOT.

Comptroller's Department

Assignment of Tax Sale Certificate - 603 Boyd Street

Meira Shapiro of The Triumph, LLC has declined to proceed with accepting the assignment of the tax sale certificate for 603 Boyd Street citing that the parking requirements would substantially devalue her property at 137 William Street.



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NYS Tax Cap Filing

Each year the City must file with the NYS Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) its tax cap calculation. This year NYS OSC selected the City for a detailed review of its filing which included sending them supporting documentation to what was filed, as well as a review of the calculation. NYS OSC had no findings in relation to their review.

Department of Public Works

Thompson Park Public Parking

Temporary signage for a Public Parking lot in Thompson Park has been erected. Permanent signs will be installed pending excavation clearance from underground utilities.



Engineering Department

Arsenal Street Rail Road Overpass

The temporary bridge is ready to is now opened and demolition has begun on the old bridge.

CDBG Huntington

Huntington sidewalks have been completed with the installation of the railings on the newly constructed steps along the 700 block of Huntington.



BEFORE



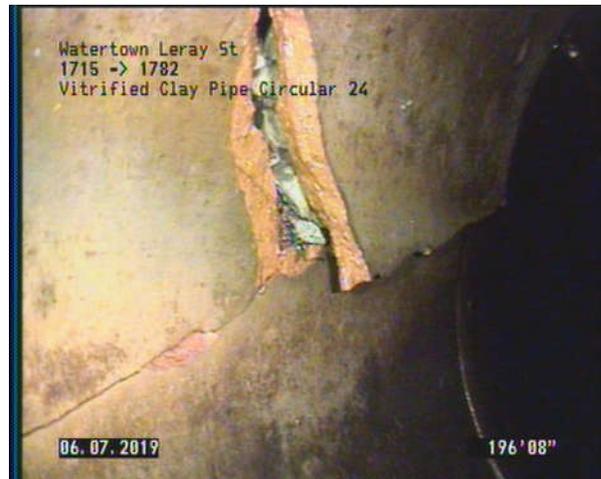
AFTER

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Cooper Street Outfall

Sewer cleaning performed to determine the condition of the sewer.



Iroquois – Sherman

Quote request for the Iroquois /Sherman intersection project didn't get any responses. A request for quote was sent directly to several contractors, and two quotes were received. Concrete Slipform Inc. quoted \$31,242.00, and DEW Builders Inc. quoted \$51,118.00. The quotes are being reviewed.



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Mill Street and Pearl Street Bridges

Luck Construction is fabricating the pedestrian bridge alongside the Pearl Street bridges. Deck repair has begun on the Mill Street Bridge.

Northside Flynn Pool Filter Replacement Project

J.E. Sheehan Construction is the construction company at the Northside Flynn Pool Filter Replacement Project. A smaller size pool filter did arrive on site; however, this smaller size pool filter has the same performance capacity of 50.3 GPM as the larger pool filter and was reviewed and approved by WT Group. New pool filter, piping, strainer, and accessories are 99 % complete for installation.

Thompson Park Swimming Pool and Bathhouse Project

C&S Companies is the Architectural Firm contracted for this project. We have received the newly designed smaller Zero Grade U Shaped Pool with a smaller 2,500 SF Bathhouse, which places us under the \$2.4 Million Dollar Budget inclusive of Design, Demolition, and Inspection Services. The Engineering Department is reviewing the new Drawings and Specifications.

Western Boulevard

Permanent pavement markings have installed on Western Blvd.



Parks and Recreation



The Jefferson County Relay for Life will take place at the Fairgrounds on Friday, June 14th. The parade begins at 6:00 pm with events to follow.

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Registrations for the City of Watertown Summer Playground Program opened up this past week. To date, we have 54 children signed up for the program.



The Parks and Recreation pools crew has been working diligently to get the pools ready for this swim season. The Flynn Pool has been drained, cleaned and filled. The Alteri Pool will be filled once the tiles are delivered to repair a small section.

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The Parks and Recreation maintenance crew has been working on clearing the brush along the trail in Bicentennial Trail.

Planning Department

Strategic Plan Open Houses Staff held six open houses this week in different parts of the City to solicit citizen feedback on the City Council's Strategic Goals and Objectives. A Staff representative from each team was present to answer questions about their respective goals and the specific objectives that they recommended to achieve those goals. Many of the attendees took advantage of the opportunity to have extended in-depth discussions with different Staff members.



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Downtown Planters

Recently, Abbey Carpet and Neighbors of Watertown contacted the Planning Department about the concrete flower planters that used to be around downtown, and whether they could have some placed in front of their businesses. A huge thank you goes out to our City's DPW crew for placing 12 planters around our downtown, and thanks to Neighbors of Watertown and Abbey Carpet for agreeing to maintain them for the summer. We appreciate your support in helping to make our downtown look beautiful.



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Tree Maintenance Efforts at Thompson Park

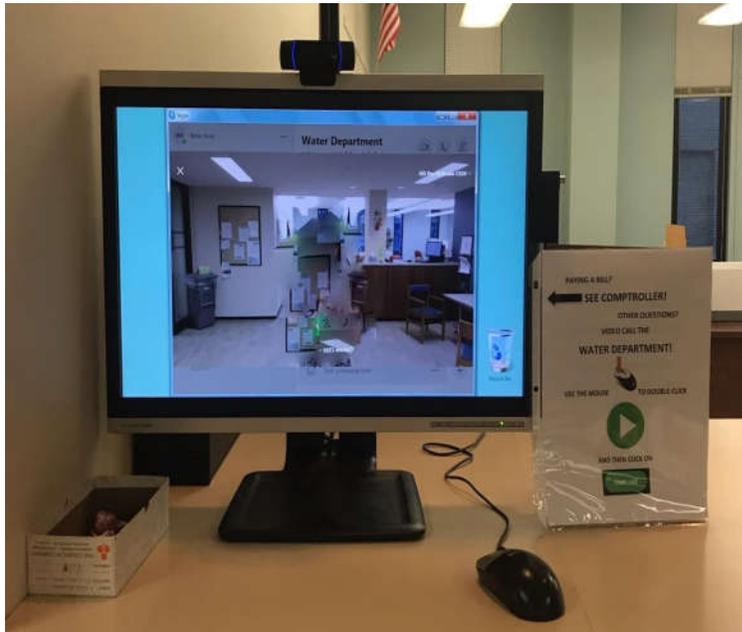
Efforts to mitigate risk associated with potentially hazardous trees along paths, roads and other high use areas in Thompson Park continue. Utilizing Cartegraph to prioritize maintenance efforts as reflected in the City's recently updated tree inventory, removal tasks have been created for over 40 potentially hazardous trees along roads, walking paths, and other high use areas of the park. This work is expected to begin as early as next week and continue throughout the summer months as scheduling permits.



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Water Department



The Water Department has almost completed their move from City Hall to the Water Filtration Plant. To help the transition for the public, SCADA Technician Maxwell French, has installed a video teleconference terminal next to the Comptroller service desk at City Hall. This terminal will alleviate some of the customer service challenges presented by Water Administration's relocation to the Water Treatment Plant, a facility not open to the general public. The system allows citizens to place a two-way video call to Water Administration staff. This adds a personal touch that is missing from a plain telephone.

The Water Department as a whole will watch many years of experience walk out the door this year when, from January 1st to June 30th, a total of eight employees will have retired.

Hydroelectric

City facilities will not have to purchase electricity from National Grid as all three turbines continued to run all week, and it appears more rain is in the forecast for next week.



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Water Treatment

The Water Filtration Plant will have three vacancies by June 30th. One position, Operator Trainee, has been offered and the new employee will begin on July 8th. The vacant Water Treatment Plant Maintenance Mechanic position is posted through June 14th.

BCA Engineers were on site performing an assessment of the Soda Ash system for the bid documents.

The plant is in the 4th week of operating without chlorinating before the filters and has some positive results so far (related to reduction of disinfection by-products).

Distribution

Flushing of the distribution system began Sunday, May 5, 2019 at 6:00 pm to 2:00 am and will continue through 6/27/2019. Water main flushing is a routine operation done every year to clean and maintain the City's water system.

The department completed two more lead service line replacements, repaired a service leak on Mullin Street, repaired six hydrants, and four meter replacements.

Wastewater

The head works project (screening and grit removal equipment) is complete and the staff received training on Thursday.



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Richard Artz, Mark Crandall, and Angel French attended the spring conference for NYWEA. Watertown hopes to have a team enter the “Operator Challenge” next year. Mark Crandall was part of the opening session and spoke about the Watertown Wastewater Plant Succession Plan.



Chris Kingsbury has completed courses in Basic Operators, Laboratory, and Activated Sludge. He will be eligible to take his 2A exam at the end of July.