

City Manager's  
Status and Information Update  
September 8, 2023



## Fire Department:

### Water Rescue – Pearl Street Bridge:

July 30<sup>th</sup> –

City police and fire units responded to a report of a woman who had jumped off the Pearl Street Bridge. The victim was swept downstream by the current. WPD and WFD personnel located the victim along the northern shore of the river, below Moulton Street, and were able to pull her to the riverbank. Due to the extreme terrain along the northern riverbank, the patient was transported via boat to the southern shore at Factory Square. The patient was treated and transported to Samaritan Medical Center.



### Solar Farm Fire:

August 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> –

City firefighters were mobilized for a hazardous materials response to a fire within a solar farm at 27831 County Route 179 in Chaumont. The City of Watertown Fire Department staffs the Jefferson County Hazardous Materials Team. Department personnel assisted the Chaumont Fire Department in the mitigation of the fire and assessment hazardous materials releases.



### Car Into A House:

August 5<sup>th</sup> –

City Firefighters were dispatched to a motor vehicle accident where the car had struck the home at 840 Bradley Street. The patient was extricated from the vehicle by department personnel. WFD and GEMS personnel treated the patient who was later transported to the hospital.



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**Mutual Aid Structure Fire:**

August 7<sup>th</sup> –

WFD was dispatched to assist the Town of Watertown Fire Department at a structure fire at 23155 Spring Valley Drive, Watertown. City fire personnel provided interior attack and incident command for the incident until the incident could be handled by the TWFD.



**MVA Rollover – Clinton / Sherman**

August 14<sup>th</sup> –

City Firefighters were dispatched to a two vehicle motor vehicle accident at the intersection of Sherman and Clinton Streets. One vehicle was on its side, with the driver partially ejected and under the vehicle. Department personnel stabilized the vehicle, extricated the patients, and assisted with their treatment.



**Mutual Aid MVA – 24143 Cty Rte. 32**

WFD was dispatched to assist the North Pole Fire Department for a serious motor vehicle accident with entrapment near 24118 Bush Road, Calcium. City personnel assisted other local departments with the very difficult and technically challenging extrication. The extrication was a success, but required the cooperation of all on scene fire, EMS and law enforcement personnel.

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**New Engine Chassis Inspection**

August 21<sup>st</sup> –

Representatives from the department travelled to the Rosenbauer assembly plant in Wyoming, Minnesota to inspect the chassis for the department's new fire engine. Our personnel were pleased with the progress so far. Rosenbauer representatives expect the engine to be completed in several months.



**Ives Hill Retirement Community Golf Ball Drop**

August 23<sup>rd</sup> –

Watertown Fire Department's administrative staff assisted with the Ives Hill Retirement Community's Golf Ball Drop Fundraiser. Staff personnel dropped 2000 golf balls from 50 feet in the air. The closest balls to the pin win. The funds raised go towards the improving handicapped access to an outdoor patio. In case you are wondering, 2000 golf balls weigh 198 pounds!



## **Engineering Department:**

### **Barben Avenue / Holcomb St. / Bugbee Dr. and East St. Water Main Replacement:**

EDGE Civil Corporation has installed all of the Sanitary sewer extension on Barben Avenue along with the remaining new Water Main services, and they are preparing the street for paving. Bugbee Drive has been graded and paved. All of the new services on Holcomb Street from Chestnut Street to Barben Avenue have been installed, and EDGE Civil Corporation has begun to install the new Water main on Holcomb Street from Mullin Street to Ten Eyck Street.



### **Burlington Street Reconstruction:**

Aubertine and Currier and the Planning Department held an open house for the public on August 30, 2023 for this project, where three different design concepts were presented. Aubertine and Currier and the Planning Department are now reviewing the feedback received from this open house.

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**City Hall Court Renovations:**

GYMO has completed approximately 50% of their preliminary design phase of this project. A progress meeting was held on September 6, 2023.

**COVID-19 Memorial:**

The contractor has formed frames for the bases of the two benches and the memorial, and concrete will be poured soon.



**Division St East / Thompson St Water Main Replacement Projects:**

The remaining construction work for this project has been completed, and Barton and Loguidice are waiting for EDGE Civil Corporation's redline drawings to create their as builts for this project.

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**DRI Streetscape Project:**

CCI Companies has been pouring concrete for the new sidewalks.



**Fire Station Exhaust Capture Removal System:**

The three Fire Stations are in need of replacing their exhaust capture removal systems. This project has been out to bid, and bids were opened on September 7, 2023. The bids are currently under review.

**Fire Station Renovations:**

A pre-construction meeting was held for this project on August 30, 2023. Northern Tier Contracting is expected to begin construction in mid-September.

**Flower Memorial Library Cornice Repointing:**

A Notice of Award has been sent to Heritage Masonry, and the Engineering Department is now waiting for submittals.

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**Flower Memorial Library Rear Window and Lighting Replacement:**

A pre-construction meeting for this project was held on August 28, 2023. The Engineering Department is currently waiting for submittals.

**Franklin Street ADA Ramps:**

A bid package for this project is currently being made. Once done, this project will be put out to bid.

**Manhole Realigning Project:**

Amendment No. 4 for additional contract time (due to material delivery delays) and changing field conditions was approved by City Council at their September 5, 2023 meeting.

**Mill Street-Southerly Street Bridge:**

The Engineering Department is currently waiting for the DOT to sign agreements related to this project.

**Police Shooting Range Upgrades:**

The design for this project is complete, and this project is now out to bid.

**Pratt Street and Sherman Street Water Main Replacement Project:**

The minor construction corrections have been completed and construction is now complete. The GHD Group has received the redline drawings from EDGE Civil Corporation and are currently creating their as builts for this project.

**Seward / Grant / Henry Streets Total Road Reconstruction:**

Luck Bros. has installed the new Storm Line in the intersection of Henry Street and Starbuck Avenue.

**Van Duzee St Bridge Project:**

It was determined that more deck repair was needed for this project. Supplemental Consultant Agreement No. 2 was approved by City Council at their September 5, 2023 meeting.

**Water Treatment Plant COAG Generator Replacement:**

National Grid has removed the brush and trees within their work corridor and will begin installing the new gas line soon.

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**William J. Flynn Pool and Bathhouse Rehabilitation:**

Con Tech Building Systems is removing the hard bedrock that was found previously, and Atlantic Testing arrived to perform compaction testing. A progress meeting was held September 5, 2023 for this project.



**Washington / Keyes Ave 500 Block Sewer Project:**

JL Excavation has completed the new sanitary sewer main in the Washington Street – Keyes Avenue – Ten Eyck Street intersection and have begun installing the new sanitary sewer main on Keyes Avenue.



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## Planning Department:

### Urban Forestry:

Planning staff coordinated efforts between City DPW Buildings and Grounds and National Grid Forestry for the necessary removal of three large silver maple trees on Ball Avenue and two large sugar maple trees on Keyes Avenue. This effort minimizes tree related risk on both avenues, and further secures National Grid's electric facilities. If space allows, site appropriate trees will be planted as replacements as part of the Spring 2024 Tree Replacement Program.



## Department of Public Works:

### Thompson Park - Jeffery E. Graham Drive Reconstruction:

Work is nearing the end on Jeffery E. Graham Drive in Thompson Park with only signage left to complete and grass to be established.



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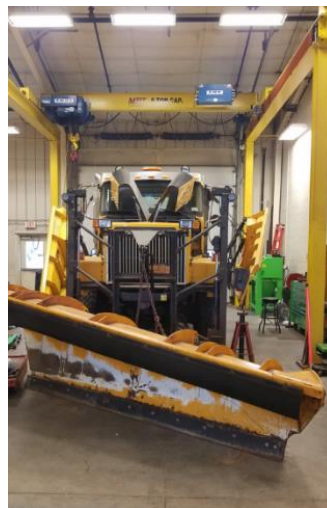
**Roadway Paving:**

DPW is continuing work on this year's paving list with activity underway on Morrison Street, North Meadow Street, and Scio Street. Morrison Street has been milled, manholes adjusted, curb installed with paving scheduled this week. North Meadow Street has been milled, manholes adjusted, ADA's ramps complete, and curb work is in progress. On Scio Street, it has been milled, manholes adjusted/repaired, and ADA ramps/sidewalks are in progress. The final step will be placement of a hot mix overlay on all these streets.



**Fleet Operations:**

DPW fleet services has been undertaking pre-season preventative maintenance work on the snow removal fleet. The City transitions to 24/7 coverage for the winter season after Thanksgiving.



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## **Gotham Street Construction:**

Contract crews from Suit-Kote Inc. performed a cold in place recycling (CIPR) operation on 1600 lineal feet of Gotham Street. This process was chosen to help restore deteriorated pavement and correct grade issues which have developed over time. In preparation for this work, City Crews have re-established roadside swales to improve overland flow of storm water. Areas of distressed pavement were excavated, and new sub-base material placed prior to the CIPR work. All sewer, water and monument castings will be reset to match the new road grade. A final layer of hot mix asphalt will be placed at the end of September followed by placement of shoulder material to complete this project. The City worked in conjunction with the Town of Watertown Highway Department which used the same CIPR process on a portion of outer Gotham St. within the Town.



## **Seasonal Yard Waste and Bulk Item Collection:**

DPW continues to collect brush and yard waste from all City residential parcels. Yard waste & brush is collected every two weeks following your recycling schedule. Leaves and grass clippings should be placed at curbside in paper bags or hard sided containers with a 40lb maximum weight. Tree limbs and brush should be stacked neatly in piles not exceeding 5' in length and 18" in diameter ( about an armful). This season to date, crews have expended 2077 hours on this task. For a complete list of brush & yard waste guidelines, please click the link below.

**Additional resources are available at**  
**<https://www.watertown-ny.gov/directory/PublicWorks>**



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**Vanduzee Street Bridge:**

Work is underway on the Vanduzee Street Bridge with traffic limited to alternating one way to facilitate the repair work. Crews are undertaking complete removal and replacement of the expansion joints, rebuilding a section of deck supporting the guide rail, localized full depth repairs to the deck and maintenance on the bridge bearings. Crews will switch to the northbound lane and undertake similar repairs with completion scheduled for November.



**Municipal Maintenance:**

DPW Municipal Maintenance has been juggling a multitude of tasks this summer with continuous mowing operations, support of community events and forestry operations. Crews from DPW & City Parks & Rec took part in training involving proper chainsaw handling and felling of trees in Thompson Park.

DPW has removed 37 emerald ash trees this summer with several left to remove. Crews have recently assisted with the removal of large, old growth maple trees on Ball Avenue.



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## Police Department:

### Police Recruitment:

The application deadline for the **entry-level police officer civil service exam** was August 6, 2023. A total of 95 applicants submitted their applications before the deadline. The exam is scheduled for Saturday, September 9, 2023. Exam scores are expected to be returned in December or January and will determine the eligible applicants for the 2024-2025 police academy, projected to begin in September of 2024.

### Police Lateral Transfers:

The Watertown Police Department is still looking for **police officer transfers**. NY State certified police officers may apply by visiting the City of Watertown Civil Service website at: <https://watertown-portal.mycivilservice.com/jobopps>

### Fugitive from Justice:

At 3:26 pm on September 7, 2023, Metro-Jefferson Drug Task Force Detectives from the Watertown Police Department and Jefferson County Sheriff's Office arrested James E. Arrington, 22 (409 S. Massey St., Watertown), on an arrest warrant from Slidell, Louisiana, with a charge of attempted Murder in the Second Degree, related to his alleged shooting of subject several times in the torso.



Arrington is being held for arraignment and extradition to Louisiana. The Metro-Jefferson task force was assisted in their investigation by the Watertown Police Department, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County Probation Department, Jefferson County Dispatch Center, and the US Marshall's Office.

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## **Police Academy:**

The newest 14 members of the Watertown Police Department were sworn in at 9:00 am on Friday, September 8th in the Watertown City Council Chambers. The new recruit officers then completed mandatory employee training and paperwork before heading back to the police department, where they were issued lockers, ID cards and some initial supplies. The Black River/St. Lawrence Valley Police Academy Class of 2023-2024 is scheduled to begin at Jefferson Community College on Monday, September 11, 2023. Officers who successfully complete the "Basic Course for Police Officers" will be ready for solo duty in July of 2024.



The new Watertown Police Dept Recruit Officers are lined up outside of the City Council Chambers, just prior to being sworn-in as Police Officers.

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THE CITY OF  
**WATERTOWN**  
NEW YORK



The Watertown Police Recruit  
Officers posed for photographs for  
family and friends in the Watertown  
City Council Chambers, just after  
having been sworn in.



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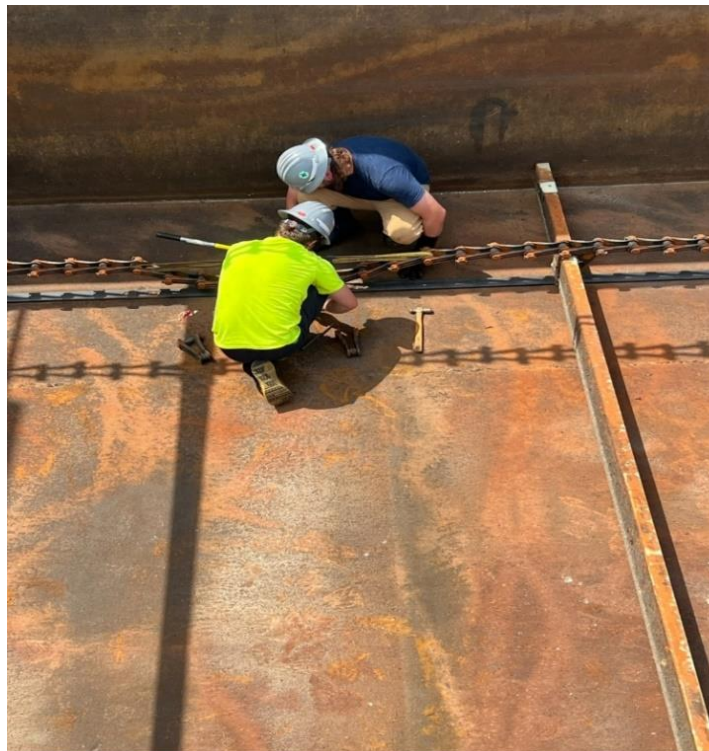
**Water Department:**

**Wastewater Treatment:**

The three “Work in Water” interns are finishing up their last few days with the treatment plant. The interns were funded by NYWEA (New York Water Environment Association) allowing high school students to learn what operators do in water professional fields.



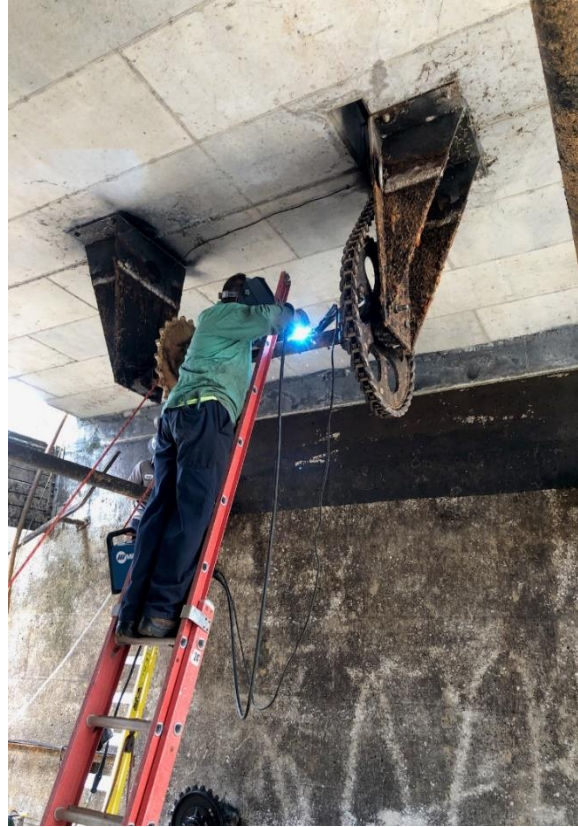
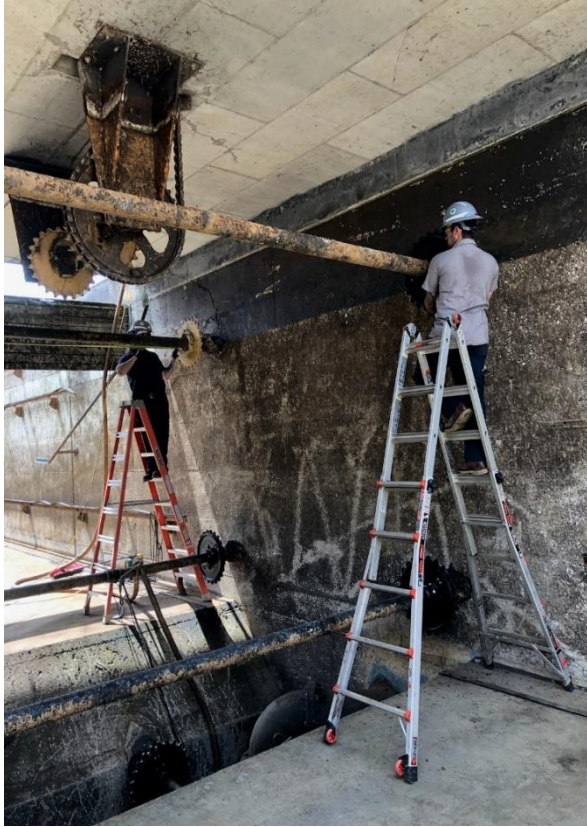
The primary tank was drained, inspected and repaired when one of the wear strips broke loose.



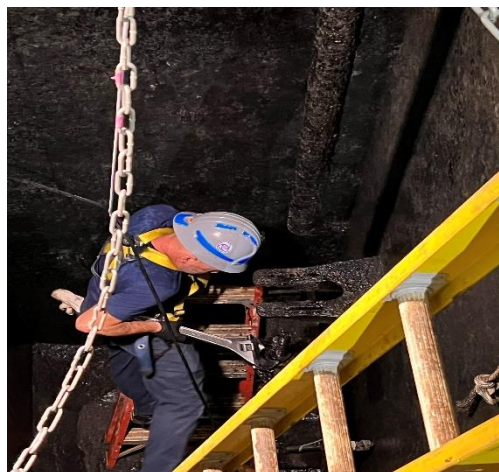
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Employees at the WWTP have been rebuilding Final B settling tank all summer. Sprocket replacement continues on Final B settling tank.



The valve stems for the Trickling Filters were removed by operators at the pollution control facility due to being completely corroded in half.



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Operators and trainees installed a rebuilt second pump at East Hills pump station. This station is slated to be upgraded this fiscal year but it is absolutely essential to have two pumps working.

