

City Manager's
Status and Information Update
January 26, 2024



Police Department:

Promotion:

Officer Robert Sines was promoted to the rank of “Police Sergeant,” effective 01/22/24. Sgt. Sines has been with the Watertown Police Department since 2012, working as a patrol officer on both the day shift and night shift. He has been twice awarded the “Lifesaving Medal” for actions related to a building fire and a suicidal person. He is a Field Training Officer (FTO) and is the department’s Narcan Program Coordinator. He has additional duties as a police academy instructor and is certified as a special-topics instructor in CPR/First Aid, EVOC (emergency vehicle operation), Ethics & Professionalism as well as general police topics. Sgt. Sines is now assigned to the “A” Platoon, which is one of the department’s day shifts, working from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm. Congratulations Sgt. Sines!

Snowstorm:

WPD road patrol was busy handling accidents and vehicles stuck in the snow.



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Police Academy:

The 2023-2024 session of the Black River/St. Lawrence Valley Police Academy is now in week twenty. During the past two weeks, recruits have been training in Defensive Tactics, Electronic Control Devices (Taser), NY Penal Law, Physical Fitness/Wellness, Response and Investigative Skills, Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs), and Appearance Tickets.

Taser training (the “suspect” is wearing a protective suit).



Recruit Officers participated in Taser training and then they got to experience what it feels like.



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WPD had a small visitor

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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>

Department of Public Works:

Over Hangs:

DPW has been taking care of safety issues related to icicles overhanging the City Central garage. The crew controls access to the doors while completing their work going in and out. We also have a spotter in place to watch for hazards from the falling ice. Safety is our number 1 goal.



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Storm Clean-up:

DPW crews were out after storm Finn cleaning up. This storm created a massive amount of work. The crews ran into trees over downed wires, garbage blown about, and electrical outages (traffic lights out) all while making it a priority to keep the streets maintained for the safety of the traveling public and to protect our City infrastructure. Storm Finn was followed by a large snow storm, which put a hold on completing all of the wind storm debris pick up. Clean up will resume at a later date.



Snow and Ice:

DPW has been hard at work cleaning streets and parking lots of snow and Ice. This weather has been up and down. New this year, DPW has initiated new techniques and equipment to plow the street of Watertown. Efficiency has been the goal to make the streets and parking lot cleaner quicker to increase the safety of the travelling public.



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Engineering Department:

Burlington Street Reconstruction:

Aubertine and Currier has submitted their Design Drawings and Specifications for this project, and they are now under review.

City Hall Court Renovations:

The City Council approved a Change Order from GYMO Engineering for this project at their 01-16-2024 meeting.

Fairgrounds Grandstand Split Face CMU Repair:

Powis Contracting has submitted their signed agreement and a Notice of Award has been sent. The Engineering Department is now waiting for submittals.

Fairgrounds Grandstand Tile Replacement:

Powis Contracting has sent in their submittals and a Notice to Proceed has been sent. The Engineering Department is now waiting for Powis Contracting to submit a Construction Timeline before construction begins.

Fire Station Exhaust Capture Removal System:

The Contractor has submitted all of documents, and a Notice to Proceed has been sent. Construction for this project is expected to begin soon.

Ohio St Water Main Replacement Project:

The chosen bid from EDGE Civil Corporation was approved by the City Council at their 01-16-2024 meeting. The Engineering Department is currently waiting to receive their signed agreement.

Police Shooting Range Upgrades:

The contractor has installed the 2 propane tanks for this project, and will install the heater soon.

Public Square Striping Update:

This project involves the restoration of the road and parking space markings on Public Square. A bid package for this project is being made, and this project will not be put out to bid until it is approved as part of the City's 2024-2025 Budget.

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Washington St / Keyes Ave 500 Block Sewer:

The Change Order for the requested time extension for this project and the Change Order from Aubertine and Currier for additional Construction Administration and Inspection Services were approved by the City Council at their 01-16-2024 meeting.

Winslow St Waer Main Replacement Project:

The chosen bid from EDGE Civil Corporation was approved by the City Council at their 01-16-2024 meeting. The Engineering Department is now waiting for their signed agreement.

Water Treatment Plant Exterior Replacement Doors:

Construction for this project began on 01-09-2024, and the contractor has fully installed two of the doors at the Water Treatment Plant Dosing Station.



William J. Flynn Pool and Bathhouse Rehabilitation:

- Con Tech Building Systems has installed the hard ceiling tracking and has boxed-out the locations of the three new concrete pads in the Mechanical Equipment Room. The drywall will be completed soon, and then Con Tech will begin painting the bathhouse interior walls. The masonry work is continuing and is now being installed around the new plumbing pipes.
- Blackstone Electric has installed their electrical conduit and conductors. Their next phase will be pulling wires.
- Hyde-Stone has begun installing their mechanical taps and is continuing to install the plumbing pipes.



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Planning Department:

Crow Harassment:

Loomacres Wildlife Management has conducted their first six (out of ten budgeted) crow harassment nights of the season, including two instances of back-to-back harassment nights in November.

Loomacres estimated a small roost of about 5,000 crows in the downtown area during these initial harassments and reported that the crows responded well to harassment techniques and broke up into small groups and dispersed.

On their sixth night of harassment, which took place in January, Loomacres observed that the majority of the crows were roosting in trees along undeveloped segments of the Black River shoreline. They did not harass the crows in this location, as undeveloped lands are a good place to let them roost.



Assessment Department:

Wastewater Treatment:

To support and assist seniors in our community, staff from the City Assessor's office will be meeting with staff at the Jefferson County Office for the Aging next week to discuss substantial changes to exemption filing requirements as a result of changes in NYS law. The dedicated staff at the Office of the Aging provide a wide range of services to seniors across Jefferson County, one of which has been offering assistance in applying for property tax exemptions. It is our hope that by working together we can mitigate any confusion over these changes and to ensure that some of our most vulnerable citizens continue to receive the tax exemptions that they are entitled to.

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Flower Memorial Library: **So much Adventure!**

ZOMBIE TAG
February 20 2-3 pm | Community Room
Ages 12-17 welcome
*Tag meets hide and seek in this fun game.
Move quietly, find a good spot to hide, and don't get caught!*
Questions? Contact Mrs. Brittan: 315.785.7714




Roswell P. Flower
MEMORIAL LIBRARY

From Pages to Flowers
For ages 18+ only
**Wednesday, February 28th
@ 6:15 pm in the Community Room**
When books are no longer shelf-worthy due to damage, the pages can be upcycled in a variety of ways. One project is to create kusudama flowers such as those pictured.
Learn the steps to transform paper squares into an eye catching flower. All supplies will be provided (including other paper options for those opposed to using book pages.)
Limit 18 participants.
No registration option. In-person only.
Presented by Amanda [315.785.7715]



Scan to view
event details



Roswell P. Flower
MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Come join us at the Library!



CHOCOLATE OLYMPICS
Compete in fun chocolate-themed
challenges to win yummy prizes!
Saturday, February 17th
10-11am
Ages 6-12
Questions? Contact Jamie: 315-785-7709

Roswell P. Flower
MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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Water Department:

Wastewater Treatment:

Wiring installed in preparation to connect the new dual gas burner to the SCADA system. This will allow more efficient operation to utilize more biogas (a byproduct of the stabilization of solids at the Pollution Control Facility).



During the most recent electrical outage, four lift stations on the north side of the city were without power for almost 24 hours. A crew of operators from the wastewater plant deployed the portable generator to manually pump down each station individually.



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The Trickling Filter at the Wastewater treatment plant was damaged during the wind storm and subsequently fixed by the crew at the treatment facility.



Water Treatment:

Due to the windstorm of January 9, the WTP was on backup generator power until grid power became available on January 11. Maintenance staff were on site around the clock to address any issues that arose during the power outage. The back

Distribution:

The department has had multiple service repairs recently ranging from ball valve replacement to service renewals.



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A Distribution crew repaired a main break in the 100 Block of Elm Street.



Distribution Staff assisted DPW with snow removal efforts from recent storms and provided equipment when available for snow removal. Staff removed snow from hydrants after recent heavy snowstorms. The marker post below is all that is visible of the hydrant.



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Parks-n-Recreation:

26

Jan

Friday

6:00 PM

6:30 PM

7:00 PM

Opening Ceremony

Free lift ticket for the first 100 people

Dry Hill Ski Area

Fireworks

Torchlight Parade & Fireworks

Live Music with Clusterfunk

Dry Hill Ski Area

27

Jan

Saturday

8 AM-1 PM

9AM- 12PM

Snow Softball

See Seperate Flyer

Pickle Ball

Downtown YMCA

28

Jan

Sunday

8 AM-1 PM

1 PM-4:30PM

Pancake Breakfast

Kids under 10 eat free - \$8 Adults

Free Swim & Splash Pad

NEW Downtown YMCA

2024

www.snowtownusa.org

snowtownusa315@gmail.com

