

City Manager's
Status and Information Update
March 22, 2024



Department of Public Works:

Spring Street Sweeping:

DPW has been making good use of the weather to begin street sweeping. Street sweeping is a vital operation to keep the streets visually appealing but also to keep dirt/debris from entering our storm collection system.



Golf Course Tree and Brush Removal:

DPW crews have been out cleaning up debris from the last couple windstorms. One of the areas in the City hit was the golf course. Working in conjunction with P&R, they were able to gather up downed trees and brush from the golf course so DPW could haul it out. The damage from the windstorms this winter will be felt into this coming summer.



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Annual Pruning:

DPW has been out starting the City's annual tree pruning. Effective pruning reduces trees issues down the road that are found with structural damage, decay, cracks, and clearance to structures/over head wires/sidewalks, paths, streets/parks, playgrounds.



Police Department:

Predatory Sexual Assault Against a Child:

Members of our uniformed patrol division responded to investigate a sex offense on 03/17/2024 at 4:38 am. It was alleged that Shane Kirkby used hidden cameras to record other people without their knowledge or consent, had sexual intercourse with a person under the age of thirteen, subjected a person under thirteen years of age to sexual contact, and forcibly touched the intimate parts of another person. As a result of the investigation, Shane Kirkby, a 43-year-old Watertown man was charged with Predatory Sexual Assault Against a Child, a class A felony, Rape in the first degree, a class B felony, Sex Abuse in the first degree, a class D felony, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the third degree, a class D felony, Unlawful Surveillance in the second degree, a class E felony, Forcible Touching, a class A misdemeanor, and Endangering the Welfare of a Child, a class A misdemeanor. He is being held pending arraignment in Jefferson County CAP Court.



Shane Kirkby

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Recruiting Future Officers:

The Watertown Police Department participated in the Bohlen Technical Center Recruitment Day at the Jeff-Lewis BOCES on March 12th.



WPD School Resource Officer Amanda Gauthier speaks with a potential future tech center student at the recruiting event.

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>

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Police Academy:

The 2023-2024 session of the Black River/St. Lawrence Valley Police Academy “Basic Course for Police Officers” has now transitioned into the “Field Training” portion of the police academy. The recruits are now working on the road with their field training officers (FTOs). These FTOs are veteran police officers who are certified by the NY State Division of Criminal Justice Services to train recruits and assist them in applying their classroom training to real world situations. During the last two weeks of academy classes, the recruits participated in training that included gang recognition, excited delirium, reality-based training (scenarios), physical fitness & wellness, and case preparation & courtroom demeanor in official proceedings.



Recruit officers participated in reality-based training scenarios.

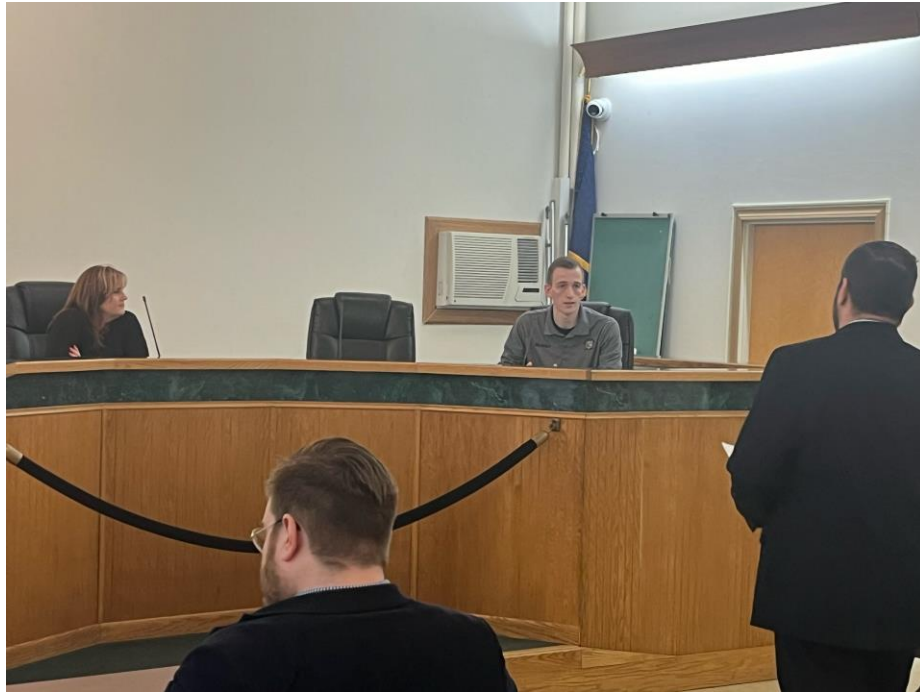


More photos of recruits participating in reality-based Training scenarios.

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Jefferson County District Attorney Kristy Mills observes, as a recruit officer testifies in a mock trial, during a class in case preparation and courtroom demeanor.



A prosecutor asks questions of a witness during a mock trial as the academy recruits watch...and wait for their turn on the stand.



Engineering Department:

Fairgrounds Grandstand Tile Replacement:

Powis Contracting began construction for this project on 03-11-2024 and is currently installing the tile in the locker rooms.



Washington / Keyes Ave 500 Block Sewer:

JL Excavation resumed construction for this project on 03-18-2024.

Water Treatment Plant COAF Generator Replacement:

National Grid did the final hookup to the new generator, and the old generator has been removed, and the new generator was started up on 03-21-2024. The only remaining construction for this project is to install the new fencing.

Winslow Street Water Main Replacement Project:

A pre-construction meeting for this project was held 03-11-2024. EDGE Civil Corporation plans to begin construction for this project in Mid-April 2024.

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William J Flynn Pool and Bathhouse Rehabilitation:

Con Tech Building Systems has poured the remaining concrete for the pool deck, and has installed the main drain for the Splash Pad. The Splash Pad has also been graded and the area prepped for concrete, and the bases for the Splash Pad features have been installed. The roof of the bathhouse is complete, and the inspector reviewed it on 03-19-2023. All of the tile inside the locker rooms have been installed and one of the remaining doors has been installed. Hyde Stone has installed the new mop sink and heaters inside the bathhouse, and Blackstone Electric has installed the wiring for the heaters. National Grid has tied the Pool Bathhouse into its new service. Construction inside of the Bathhouse is nearly complete, and a General Construction Walkthrough for the Bathhouse interior to determine the punch list for any General Construction Remaining work inside the Bathhouse was held on 03-19-2023.



Flower Memorial Library:



**TUESDAY, APRIL 30 AT 5PM
AT 229 WASHINGTON STREET, WATERTOWN**

SKYWARN is a national effort to save lives during severe weather emergencies with an expanding network of trained volunteer weather spotters. SKYWARN spotters support their local community and government by providing reports of severe weather directly to the National Weather Service in Buffalo by phone using the NWS spotter hotline, or by online reporting. The services performed by SKYWARN have saved many lives.

The National Weather Service has a number of devices for detecting severe thunderstorms, including Doppler radar, satellite, and lightning detection networks. However, the most important tool for observing thunderstorms is the trained eye of the storm spotter. By providing observations, SKYWARN spotters assist National Weather Service staff in their warning decisions and enable the National Weather Service to fulfill its mission of protecting life and property. Storm spotters are, and always will be, an indispensable part of the severe local storm warning program.

This basic training session provides:

- a brief overview of the National Weather Service organization and our responsibilities
- severe weather safety tips
- basic severe weather meteorology including how thunderstorms, severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, and flash floods form

Anyone can become a severe weather spotter for the National Weather Service. SKYWARN training is free and open to the public. Registration is helpful for event hosts but not required. **Scan the QR code below to get started**



EVENT IS HELD AT:
 **Roswell P. Flower
MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

Contact Ashley at Flower Library:
315-785-7714

Contact the National Weather Service:
716-565-0204 x223



Fire Department:

Recruit Academy:

This week the recruit class traveled to the Ft. Drum training facility to get their first round of live fire training. Recruits worked with department instructors on basic live fire, hose line advancement and extinguishment skills.



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Hazardous Materials Training:

On March 16, 2024, the department was dispatched to the 400 block of Binsse St. for a vehicle leaking fuel. The call ended up being located at 570 W. Main St. where the responding engine company found a flooded basement containing a large amount of diesel fuel. Further investigation found a large amount of fertilizer and some 250-gallon fuel tanks of which one was leaking. Investigation by DEC on scene determined that the incident was not immediately volatile and is working with Code Enforcement and police to clean up the hazard. It was later verified by NYSP hazmat specialists that the scene was safe.



Department Training:

Recently C Platoon toured the Afgriotech facility on Waterman Drive to learn the potential hazards associated with the operation. This tour was in conjunction with the grain bin rescue training we received this past fall. We were able to see the potential areas that would pose a problem for us in a rescue or fire situation which included, high pressure steam, large electrical devices, potential worker entrapment and areas where victim removal from on top of grain legs which above the reach of our aerial devices could pose a challenge to rescuers. We appreciate the opportunity to tour this facility and partner with local industry to allow us to train to better serve our community, and we look forward to the remaining platoons training in the future.

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Planning Department:

Planning and Zoning Applications Online:

The Planning Department is now accepting Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Zoning Compliance Certificate applications electronically through the Accela Citizen Access Portal. The new application process will allow the Planning Department to have a digital record for all of the planning applications, while also streamlining the review process and reducing paper usage. The Code Enforcement Department uses Accela for their permits and has reported success with the process. Planning staff has been working with staff from the IT Department to create the applications and learn the Accela platform, with plans to move away from paper applications to fully digital applications in the near future.

Planning and Zoning

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[Online Applications and Forms](#)

[Planning Commission](#)

[Zoning Board of Appeals](#)

[Comprehensive Plan](#)

[Zoning Ordinance](#)

[Plans, Policies and Studies](#)

[Community Development Block Grant](#)

[Urban Forestry Program](#)

Department of Parks and Recreation:

Thompson Park Golf Course:

The Parks & Recreation crews have been busy cleaning up downed trees on the golf course, as a result of this winter's storm damage.



The Thompson Park Golf Course is now selling 2024 annual passes. The golf course anticipates opening on Monday, April 15th.



2024 Season Rates

| Season Pass | Resident / Military | Non-Resident |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 18 & under | \$125 | \$150 |
| 22 & under | \$275 | \$325 |
| Adult | \$750 | \$825 |
| Senior (62) | \$600 | \$675 |
| Senior Couple (62) | \$850 | \$925 |
| Family (2 Adults) | \$950 | \$1,050 |
| Per additional student | \$70 | \$80 |

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Athletic Field Preparations:

Early spring-like weather enabled Parks & Recreation crews to get an early start on field preparation for spring and summer activities. Weather permitting, fields will be open for use on April 1st.



Registration for Sunday Softball is now open through Friday, April 5th. The season is scheduled to begin May 5th! Teams will play two games each Sunday with the season running through August. For additional information contact the Parks & Recreation office at 315-785-7775.

City of Watertown 

**MEN'S SUNDAY
SOFTBALL**

Registration Period
Monday March 4-Friday April 5

Captain's Meeting:
Wednesday April 17th 6pm

Season Begins
Sunday May 5, Weather Permitting

Final day of roster additions or changes is June 14
Team Registration fee is \$300 using the link below:
<https://secure.rec1.com/NY/watertown-ny/catalog>
Call 315-785-7775 for more information



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Municipal Arena:

The final Slip, Side and Skate class was held on Tuesday, March 19th. Throughout the class, participants worked to hone their skating skills through fun and interactive activities! A big thank you to our new instructor Erica Bartholomew! Check back in the fall for next year's class schedule.



The Watertown Figure Skating Club held their annual figure skating competition the weekend of Saturday, March 9th. A great turnout for a great event!



Employee Recognition:

Welcome to the Team!

Anthony Gianotti new hire: Wastewater Treatment Plant

Jacob Mitchell new hire: Department of Public Works

Helen Witham Washer new hire: Department of Public Works

Keely Barney new hire: Purchasing Department

Nicholas Bigelow new hire: Wastewater Treatment Plant