

City Manager's  
Status and Information Update  
May 3, 2024

**City Manager's Office:**

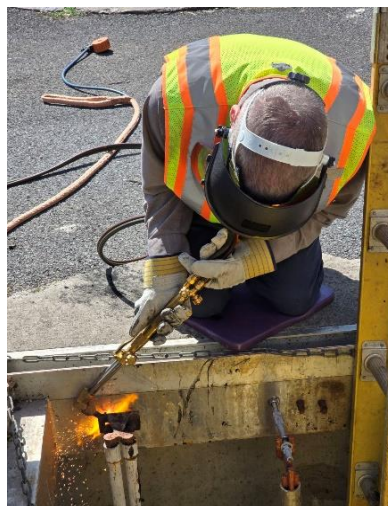
**Watertown in Bloom – Spring has Arrived:**



## Water Department:

### Wastewater Treatment Plant:

DPW provided support using the vac truck to empty the lift station at the Industrial Park. At the Pollution Control facility, the crew fabricated new mounting brackets for the installation of a new style pump. This new pump will match the existing one in the station, ensuring uniformity. Having two pumps in each lift station ensures redundancy.



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Workers at the Pollution Control Facility examined and adjusted the chain within the Final A tank. Tanks undergo annual cleaning and inspection as part of preventive maintenance.



The Department of Public Works (DPW), personnel from the Pollution Control Facility, a contractor, and a septic hauler work together to shift power from the old transfer switch to the new one.



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The contractor has completed the installation of new pads for emergency generators at three lift stations: Laucheneur Dr, Cedar St, and Gaffney Dr. These new generators will enable the lift stations to operate in the event of a power loss from National Grid. This is crucial for preventing sewer line backups during abnormal power outages.



A local business replaced the broken glass panels at the pollution control facility.



## Civil Service Department:



## Civil Service Opportunities

The City of Watertown has several employment opportunities:

- |                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ◆ Civil Engineer I                 | ◆ Municipal Worker              |
| ◆ GIS Technician                   | ◆ Parks & Rec Attendant         |
| ◆ Golf Course Maintenance Worker   | ◆ Police Officer Transfer       |
| ◆ Laborer                          | ◆ School Crossing Guard         |
| ◆ Motor Equipment Operator (Light) | ◆ Senior Engineering Technician |
|                                    | ◆ Transit Operator              |
|                                    | ◆ Urban Forestry Assistant      |

Apply through the online portal or reach out to  
[civilservice@watertown-ny.gov](mailto:civilservice@watertown-ny.gov)

<https://watertown-portal.mycivilservice.com/jobopps>

## Department of Public Works:

### Stump Clean-Up:

DPW has been out removing stumps left from the wind storms we received over the winter. In this case at the golf course we elected to fully remove the stump. In most cases we grind them down to at least 6" below the surface. Stumps are unsightly and we try our very best to keep up on removing them.



### Mowing:

Mowing season has started and so has DPW. DPW has started with our regular mowing schedule keeping all city owned property's looking the very best that they can.



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**Building Demolition:**

DPW removed the old scale house at the City landfill. The building was deteriorated and unsafe to the point where it was going to fall in.. Building demolition is another operation DPW is capable of completing when it is necessary. It will be nice to see it all cleaned up.



**Street Construction:**

DPW is back at milling/paving construction of streets. Streets like this one are evaluated every year and are decided on to what extent they need to be redone. Starbuck street shown will be milled to the correct cross slope and paved. Drainage and ADA will be improved as well.



## Police Department:

### WPD Police Office of the Year:

Officer Eric McLane was the Watertown Police Department “Officer of the Year” awardee for 2024. The American Legion (Post 61) holds the annual event to honor a Watertown Police officer, a Watertown Firefighter, a Watertown area NY State Trooper, a NY State Corrections officer, a Jefferson County Sheriff’s Deputy, a Jefferson County Sheriff’s Corrections Officer, and a Jefferson County Dispatcher. Officer McLane was recognized for assisting in cutting down a hanging victim and performing CPR on the subject until he was relieved by EMS personnel. The subject survived and Officer McLane followed up with the subject, frequently checking in on them and building a rapport. When the subject attempted suicide again a few months later, Officer McLane was called to the scene to speak with the subject. He was able to find out what had happened and convinced the subject to seek help for their mental health issues. Great job Officer McLane!!



WPD Officer Eric McLane shows Chief Charles Donoghue his “Officer of the Year” plaque from the American Legion Post 61 (Watertown). He also received certificates of appreciation from the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, the NY State Assembly, and the NY State Senate.

### 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>

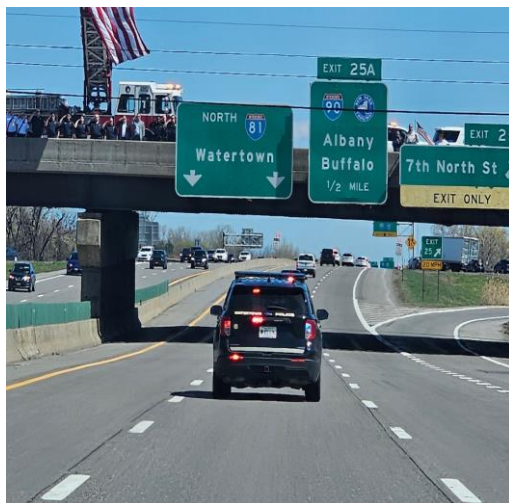


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**Onondaga County Police Officers Killed in the Line of Duty:**

On Sunday, April 14th, Onondaga County Sheriff's Lieutenant Michael Hoosock and Syracuse Police Officer Michael Jensen were both shot and killed during an ambush by a crime suspect in Salina NY, outside of Syracuse. On Tuesday morning, Watertown Police Officers participated in procession, escorting the remains of Syracuse Officer Michael Jensen from the Onondaga County Medical Examiner's Office in Syracuse, to Rome, NY. Officer Jensen's funeral took place on Saturday, April 20th at St. John the Baptist Church in Rome, NY. Lt. Hoosock's funeral took place on Monday, April 22nd, at the Exposition Center, NY State Fairgrounds.



One of two Watertown Police patrol cars escorting Syracuse Police Officer Michael Jensen's remains from Syracuse to Rome, NY.

The long police procession was greeted at every overpass by personnel from police, fire, and EMS units, as well as civilians, all paying their respects to Officer Michael Jensen.



WPD Honor Guard Personnel attended both Funerals

## Engineering Department:

### Burlington Street Reconstruction:

The City Engineering, Planning, DPW, and Water Department have received and reviewed Aubertine and Currier's 99% Design Drawings, and submitted their comments. Aubertine and Currier is now completing the designs and specifications for this project, and it will be put out to bid soon.

### Flower Memorial Library Cornice Repointing:

Heritage Masonry began construction for this project on 04-22-2024.

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

The contractor has installed the new windows on the library, and only one panel is left to install. A final walkthrough was held 04-17-2024, and only minor punch list items were found. Once the punch list items are completed and the final panel is installed, construction for this project will be complete.



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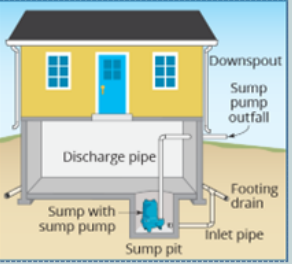

**William J Flynn Pool and Bathhouse Rehabilitation:**

Con Tech Building Systems has begun installing the new fence around the pool deck, and Sundance Leisure has started tiling the pool shell. Once all the tile is installed, the pool shell will be plastered and water will start being added into the pool. Blackstone Electric has installed all of the lighting controls, and met with the City IT Department on 04-19-2024 to discuss locations for the new security cameras. Hyde Stone has installed the new hose bib on the Bathhouse exterior and the new water drinking fountain inside the Bathhouse.



**Guide to Sump Pump Connections:**

 <p><b>CITY OF WATERTOWN</b> Engineering Department</p> <p><b>GUIDE TO SUMP PUMP CONNECTIONS</b></p> <p>During wet weather, improperly connected sump pumps can overload the sanitary sewer system and create sewer backups impacting basements, roadways and waterways.</p> 	<p><b>INFLOW AND INFILTRATION</b></p> <p>The City of Watertown has been actively working to identify and remove inflow and infiltration from the sanitary sewer collection system to reduce/eliminate wet weather surcharging conditions. Infiltration and inflow is clear, non-contaminated water that enters into the sanitary sewer system - see the sources in the image below:</p>  <p>One of the common sources for this extra water is illegal sump pump connections into the City sanitary collection system. These connections are hard to detect without actually entering homes and conducting inspections of the plumbing systems. This flyer provides guidance for homeowners to identify improper connections and offers possible solutions to re-direct the discharge from their sump pumps.</p> <p>Please contact the City Engineering Department or the City Public Works Department with any questions regarding information provided in this document. Contact information is included on the back page.</p>	<p><b>Prohibited Locations</b> <b>For A Sump Pump Discharge</b></p> <p>DO NOT connect your sump pump to the sanitary sewer pipe in your residence. It is illegal to discharge water from perimeter drains or sump pumps to the sanitary sewer. If the outlet pipe from your sump pump is connected to any other pipe in your home, it is more than likely an improper connection to the sanitary sewer.</p>  <p>DO NOT pump storm water onto sidewalks or streets. Sump pump water draining onto walkways and streets can cause icy, unsafe conditions for pedestrians. Instead, direct the discharge to your yard, away from the foundation</p>  <p>DO NOT pump storm water onto your neighbors property as this can be a nuisance and result in property damage.</p>
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<p><b>Function of Sump Pumps</b></p> <p>The job of a sump pump is to remove rainwater or groundwater from your basement to prevent flooding. A sump pump is usually installed in a sump pit which collects water from drains around the perimeter of the foundation. As the water in the pit rises, the pump activates and discharges the water to the outside, allowing room for additional water to collect.</p> <p><b>The Problem of Inflow</b></p> <p>Inflow to a sewer system can be defined as rain water or snowmelt that enters directly into the sanitary sewer system. Improperly connected sump pumps, foundation drains and downspouts are sources of this direct inflow commonly found in residential homes. Instead of directing clear water away from the house, the water is allowed to enter the sanitary sewer through a connection in the basement. Inflow is a problem as it creates an extra burden on the sewer system, in some cases quickly overloading the system and causing sewer backups.</p> <p><b>City Ordinance and Enforcement</b></p> <p>The City of Watertown has adopted ordinances that make it illegal to have improper connections to the sanitary sewers. To avoid issues with enforcement of these ordinances, please make sure your sump pump and downspouts are not connected to the sanitary sewer.</p> <p>Homeowners can have an impact on either preventing or contributing to the problem of sewer backups caused by inflow.</p> <p>Your community and neighbors are relying on you to take responsibility for making sure that your basement connections are not contributing to the problem.</p>	<p><b>Proper Sump Pump Discharge</b></p>  <p>The outlet pipe from your basement sump pump should always discharge away from your home. Avoid discharging water too close to your foundation where it could puddle and seep back into your basement. Provide enough discharge pipe to reach into your yard at least 6' from the foundation wall.</p> <p>If your street has a dedicated storm sewer system, consult with the City about a direct connection into the storm system for your sump pump. Other discharge options include a rain garden or dry well</p> 	<p><b>Contacts</b></p> <p>City of Watertown Engineering Department 315-785-7740 Email: [redacted]</p> <p>City of Watertown Public Works Department 315-785-7842 Email: <a href="mailto:PublicWorks@watertown-ny.gov">PublicWorks@watertown-ny.gov</a></p> <p><b>Resources</b></p> <p><a href="#">FEMA Flood Damage Protection Best Practices 2017.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="#">Cornell Cooperative Extension   Rain Gardens</a></p> <p><a href="#">Create A Rain Garden - NYSDEC</a></p>
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## Fire Department:

### HAZ-MAT / Motor Vehicle Accident:

On Wednesday April 24, 2024, the Watertown Fire Department responded mutual aid to US Route 11 in the Town of Watertown to mitigate a hazardous material spill resulting from a tanker rollover. The department responded with the Jefferson County hazardous material vehicles and an engine from the city.



### Promotional Ceremony:

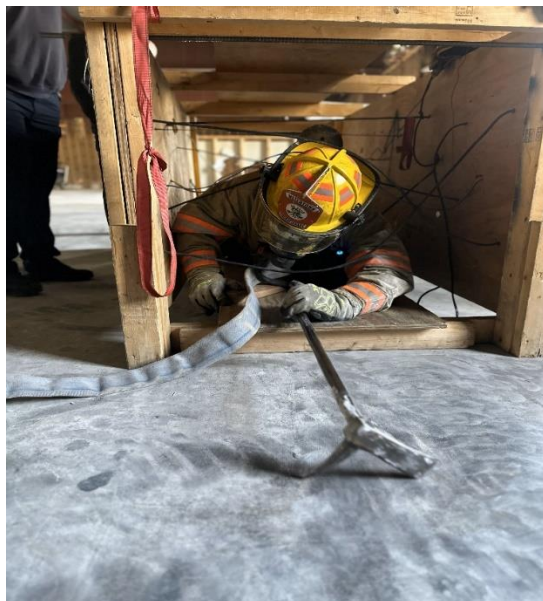
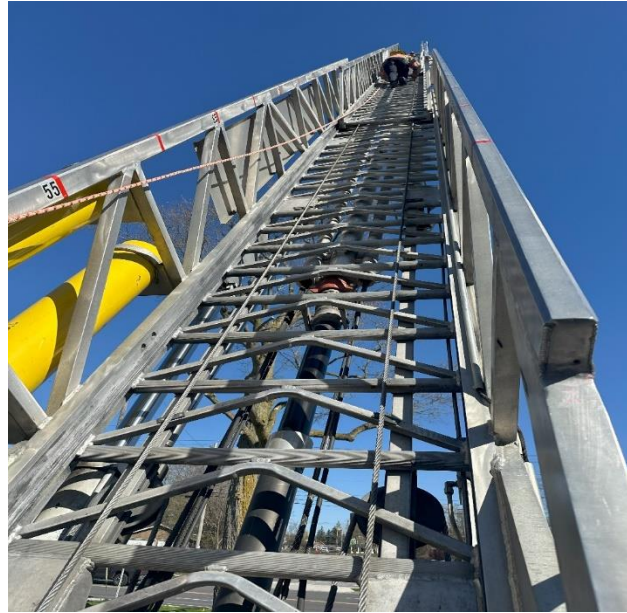
Friday evening, April 19th, a pinning ceremony was held at our Massey St Fire Station. While they were promoted on November 19, 2023, on this evening Captain Craig Rowsam and Captain Allen Mullin swore an oath to continue to serve the City of Watertown Fire Dept in front of those in attendance including their brother firefighters, family, and friends. They will now serve as newly appointed officers in charge of their own respective companies. Additionally, five firefighters received their firefighter leather fronts signifying completion of their probationary period. Firefighters Jon Castilleja, Tyler VanCamp, Travis Docteur, Jesse Grove-Rose, and Christopher Strough were hired on 3/27/2023 and completed their probationary period on 3/27/2024. Congratulations to our newly appointed Captains and Firefighters on their recent accomplishments.



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**Recruit Academy:**

The recruit academy is completing their 9<sup>th</sup> week of firefighter training. This week the recruits participated in ladder company operations, aerial operations, and firefighter survival. All candidates continue to impress and are progressing well. Graduation is currently slated for May 31, 2024.



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**Planning Department:**

**542 Cooper St Demolition:**

D&S Excavating worked on demolishing a city-owned condemned structure last week at 542 Cooper Street. The City hired D&S Excavating following a competitive bid process in February and is paying for the demolition with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement funds. The photo (taken Wednesday, April 17, 2024) shows the demolition underway. The remaining work for the project site will be to seed and topsoil the parcel which is weather-dependent.



**Friends of Thompson Park:**

Fifteen people participated in the first Thompson Park Workday of the year held by the Friends of Thompson Park on Saturday, April 20. Volunteers cleared brush and invasive species near the park entrance along Joseph M. Butler Jr. Drive. A section of trail was cleared and delineated with logs and an area that will be used for part of the disc golf course was also cleared.

**NNY Community Foundation:**

The Youth Philanthropy Council will be conducting a special workday on Sunday, May 5th from 1 pm to 4 pm to continue the efforts to remove invasive species in Thompson Park. Work completed during the last several years has opened up views, created new trails and has reclaimed space previously overrun by invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle. The Friends of Thompson Park will host their next regular workday on Saturday, May 18th from 9 am to 12 pm.



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**Department of Parks and Recreation:**

**Full Summer Schedule with More Events Coming Soon :**



**2024 EVENT CALENDAR**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
Saturday, March 16	ST. PAT'S CLASSIC	Watertown Ice Arena
Monday, April 8	TOTAL ECLIPSE IN THE PARK	Thompson Park Kite Hill
Friday-Sunday, April 19-21	SPIDERS ANTI-BULLYING TOURNAMENT	Kostyk Field & Fairgrounds 1 & 2
Saturday, May 4	MONSTER YARD SALE	Watertown Municipal Arena
Saturday, May 11	DPAO CONCERT	Watertown Municipal Arena
Sunday, May 12	BRVHA HORSE SHOW	Horse Ring 1 & 2
Wednesday, May 15	NRCIL: MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WALK	JB Wise Pavilion
Saturday, May 18	MMA	Watertown Municipal Arena
Thursday, May 23	CAREER JAM	Watertown Municipal Arena
Wednesday, May 29	DPAO CONCERT	Watertown Municipal Arena
Saturday, June 1	SATURDAY FARMER'S MARKET STARTS	J.B. Wise Pavilion
Saturday, June 8	4 H HORSE SHOW	Horse Ring 1 & 2
Saturday-Sunday, June 8 & 9	COMICON	Watertown Municipal Arena
Saturday, June 10	PICKLE BALL TOURNAMENT	Watertown Municipal Arena
Friday, June 14	RELAY FOR LIFE	Fairgrounds
Sunday, June 23	COMPASSIONATE CARE CANCER WALK	Thompson Park Kite Hill
Tuesday, July 2	CONCERT IN THE PARK WITH FIREWORKS	Thompson Park Kite Hill
July 9-14	JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIR	Fairgrounds
July 19-21	TI CHALLENGE	Fairgrounds
July 22-26	YMCA BASEBALL CAMP	Fairgrounds Field 1
Thursday, August 1	DPAO CONCERT	Fairgrounds
Saturday, August 10	BRVHA HORSE SHOW	Horse Ring 1 & 2
Saturday-Sunday, August 10 & 11	FAERY & EARTH FESTIVAL	Thompson Park Picnic Area
Saturday, August 24	DPAO CONCERT	Fairgrounds
Saturday, September 14	BRVHA HORSE SHOW	Horse Ring 1 & 2
Saturday-Sunday, September 13 & 14	JCC HOCKEY TOURNAMENT	Watertown Municipal Arena
Sunday, September 15	OUT OF THE DARKNESS	Thompson Park Large Pavilion
Friday, September 20	DPAO CONCERT	Fairgrounds
Saturday, September 21	ALZHEIMER'S WALK	Thompson Park Large Pavilion
Saturday, October 19	PAWS FOR POTTER	Thompson Park Rotary Pavilion



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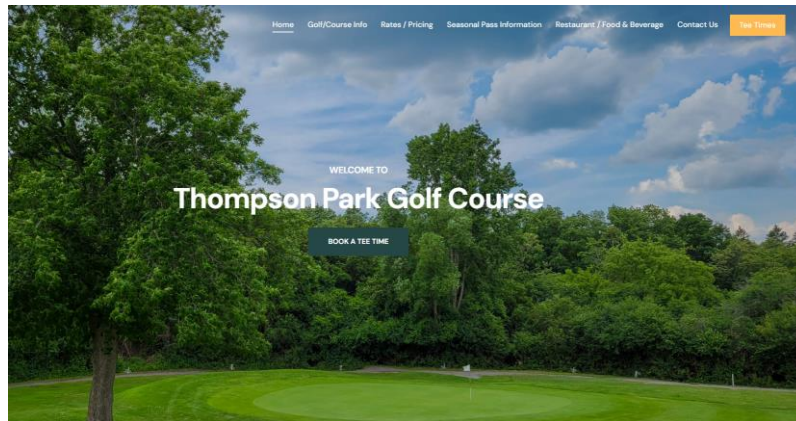


**Seasonal Employment:**

The Parks & Recreation Department is still accepting applications for seasonal employment. To apply please visit <https://watertown-portal.mycivilservice.com/jobopps>

**Thompson Park Golf Course New Website:**

<https://thompsonparkgolfcourse.watertown-ny.gov/> to check it out or to book your next tee time! A new mobile app will be launched in a few weeks, allowing golfers to book tee times, purchase season passes, and it will also have a GPS and scoring feature.



**Pickleball:**

Here are a few new opportunities! For additional information please visit : <https://secure.recl.com/NY/watertown-ny/catalog> or call 315-785-7775.

**PICKLEBALL YOUTH CLINIC**

**SATURDAY, MAY 18TH**  
(RAIN DATE MAY 19TH)  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**THOMPSON PARK**  
Osborn Tennis Courts

**INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:**  
Our open clinic is designed for everyone, from beginners taking their first swing to seasoned players looking to refine their skills. It's a welcoming atmosphere where camaraderie and improvement go hand in hand.

Register early - space is limited

**AGES 10-16**  
**CLINIC IS FREE!**

Call 315-785-7775 if you need assistance  
<https://secure.recl.com/NY/watertown-ny/catalog>

Logos: Parks & Recreation City of Watertown NY, Pickleball character, QR code

Watertown Parks & Rec  
Presents  
**Pickleball**  
BEGINNER CLINICS

**MAY 7TH & 8TH**  
TIME: 6:00-7:30PM  
(RAIN DATES MAY 9TH & 10TH)

**MAY 28TH & 29TH**  
TIME: 6:00-7:30PM  
(RAIN DATES: MAY 30TH & 31ST)

Register early - space is limited

**THOMPSON PARK**  
Osborn Tennis Courts

**CLINICS ARE FREE**

Registration is open!

5/7-5/8 Clinic      5/28-5/29 Clinic

<https://secure.recl.com/NY/watertown-ny/catalog>

call 315-785-7775 if you need assistance

Logos: Pickleball character, QR codes

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**Thompson Park Tennis Courts:**

Crews have been working to clean the tennis courts in Thompson Park. This work is ongoing and will continue until the courts are clean.



**Softball Fields:**

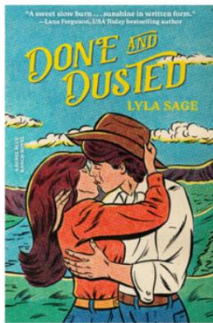
Matthew Melvin held his second annual anti-bullying softball tournament Saturday & Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. Special guest and former Buffalo Bills player Darryl Talley was in town offering support for this event. In total 9 teams participated.



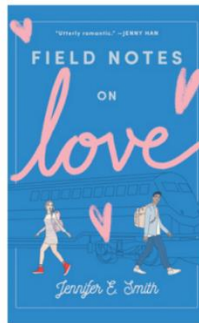
## Flower Memorial Library:



Join us to chat about all things books and romance!  
No book club experience needed. All meetings begin at 6:30pm.



Wednesday,  
March 13th



Wednesday,  
April 17th



Wednesday,  
May 22nd

**Any adult welcome! Meetings are free and held on Zoom.  
Visit our Calendar of Events to get the link.**



Call Ashley for event questions at 315-785-7714.

[www.FlowerLibrary.org](http://www.FlowerLibrary.org)



## Employee Recognition:

**Best Wishes to Seth Bailey from Engineering on his new Career with the Navy:**



Pictured here: Seth with the City Engineer Tom Compo

## Welcome to the Team!

### **New Hires: Parks and Recreation:**

**Toby Draper , Ethan McConnell, Brady VanBrocklin, Matthew Grant, Luke Heller, Edward Omelia, Jacob Lawlee, Ryan Blevins**

### **New Hires: Water Department**

**Phillip Marra**