

## City Manager's Status and Information Update

August 16, 2024

Check out our Website!

[City of Watertown, New York - City Manager \(watertown-ny.gov\)](http://City of Watertown, New York - City Manager (watertown-ny.gov))



## Opportunities with Watertown

There are several exciting job opportunities open with the city of Watertown, including:

- ✓ GIS Technician
- ✓ Civil Engineer I
- ✓ Laborer I
- ✓ Senior Planner

We are in the final days of our recruiting drive for the September 28, 2024, Police Officer exam! The deadline to apply is August 22, 2024. Click [here](#) for the exam announcement. Click [here](#) to apply to take the exam.

City of Watertown Police Department

### We Are Hiring!

- Apply to sit for the Police Officer civil service exam by **August 22**
- Exam test date [September 28](#)

- No residency requirement
- Cross-filing eligible
- Required high school diploma or equivalency degree (GED)
- Age eligibility 19-34\* years
- \*Military duty of up to 6 years can be extended for age requirement

**EXAM APPLICATION:**

Paper applications can be completed at  
City Hall - Room 205, 245 Washington St.  
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM Monday - Friday

*For More Opportunities  
visit the link below:*



## Street Closures and Construction

- ✓ Scheduled service on Bigham Street on August 16<sup>th</sup> and West Prospect Street within the next week.
- ✓ Repair work on the fire hydrant on Leray Street.
- ✓ Continued work on the water main projects on Ohio, Grant and Seward Streets.
- ✓ Work on N. Indiana Street for the cut in of the new valve.

## City Council Meetings

Click here for the most recent meeting minutes from the August 5, 2024 City Council Meeting:

[https://www.watertown-ny.gov/media/ArchiveDocuments/CityCouncil/CouncilAgendas/2024/08-05-2024\\_Council\\_Meeting\\_Agenda.pdf](https://www.watertown-ny.gov/media/ArchiveDocuments/CityCouncil/CouncilAgendas/2024/08-05-2024_Council_Meeting_Agenda.pdf)

Just as a reminder:

The City Council meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7 PM in the Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, 245 Washington St, Watertown NY. The 2nd Monday of each month is held for Work Sessions, which are open discussions of topics requested by the Mayor and City Council. If there is a holiday on Monday, the Council Meeting or Work Session will take place on the following day, Tuesday. Public is welcome to attend all meetings. City Council Minutes & Agendas are available online and the Meetings and Work Sessions are captured on video by Steve Weed Productions.

## Police Department

### Police Academy:

We are in the final process of selecting our new class of police recruit officers! The Black River/St. Lawrence Police Academy Class of 2024-2025 will begin on Monday, September 9, 2024. Officers will attend classes and practical exercises through the Spring of 2025. They will then transition to the “Field Training” portion of the academy before graduating and going out on the road on their own. Good luck to the recruit officer applicants!

### Community Engagement:



Officers Amanda Gauthier and Shane Ryan helped the Northern Regional Council for Independent Living (NRCIL) with their “ADA Celebration” on July 26, 2024.

### **City Police Recruiting:**



Officer Shane Ryan (pictured here) was on "The Border" radio station (106.7 FM) to do some recruiting for our next "Police Officer" exam on September 28, 2024 (application deadline is 08/22/24).

### **Training on Ft. Drum:**



Lt. George Cummings teaching Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) to a class of Ft. Drum Military Police on 08/14/24.

### **K9 Birthday:**



Someone got a treat! K9 "Ricky" turned 10 years old on 08/11/24. Ricky is seen below eyeing the "meatloaf cake" with his handler, Officer Wayne McConnell. The "cake" was courtesy of Officer Hayley Maguire. Ricky had no comment when asked about retirement plans.

### Other Animal News:



Officer Sydney Hunter responded to a call of a racoon in a tree. She caught the racoon while a DEC Officer assisted.

### Certificate of Appreciation:



LTC Woods of the 2nd Battalion, 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment at Ft Drum, presented Sgt. Jake Bull with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of the teamwork between his unit and the Watertown Police Department during the police escorts of the artillery used during the 2024 Concert in the Park event. The artillery unit was escorted by WPD patrols from Ft. Drum to Thompson Park and then back to Ft. Drum after the event.

### Police Lateral Transfers:

The Watertown Police Department is 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>

### Retirements:



We would also like to **Congratulate** Captain Michael J. LaBarge on his retirement after 26 years working for the City and over 31 years in Law Enforcement! The City celebrated his retirement in City Council Chambers on Friday, August 16, 2024.



## Fire Department

### August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 – Structure Fire – 308 Creekwood Drive:

Fire crews were dispatched to a kitchen fire in an apartment at 308 Creekwood Drive. The sprinkler system held the fire in check until firefighters could fully extinguish the fire. Shifting gears, the crews worked to limit the water damage and salvage property. The fire was confined to the apartment kitchen.

**August 5th, 2024 –  
Watertown Fire Department  
Recruit Academy:**

Recruit firefighters from the City of Watertown, Town of Watertown, City of Fulton, and Town of Victor started their recruit fire academy last week. The recruits are working on their emergency medical technician and physical training. Morale is high and we are impressed with their performance.



**August 6th, 2024 – Water Rescue – Mill Street Bridge:**



City fire crews were dispatched to a report of an individual who had jumped into the river from the Mill Street Bridge. Upon arrival, units were deployed to the bridge as well as

downstream points to search for the subject.

The victim was located and rescued several hundred feet downstream from the bridge. Medical treatment was administered at the riverbank before the patient was transported by boat to a downstream location, where patient was handed over to Guilfoyle Ambulance for further treatment and transport to Samaritan Medical Center. The department received valuable assistance from the Watertown Police Department and Guilfoyle Ambulance Service.

**August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Flooding Event –  
City of Watertown:**

During and after the torrential rain caused by the remnants of Hurricane Debbie, the department was stretched thin as we dealt with 161 calls for service over a 12 hour period. The majority of these calls were for flooded basements. The flooding caused a myriad of related issues, including natural gas leaks from flooded gas fired appliances, flammable liquid spills from upturned fuel cans, and electrical investigations from submerged appliances and electrical panels. Like many buildings around the city, the Massey Street Fire Station also flooded. Staff left back at the station to coordinate the department response pulled double duty as they ran pumps inside the station to keep the water at bay.



**August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Structure Fire – 125 North Hamilton Street**



During the rain event, the department responded to a structure fire at 125 North Hamilton Street. The duty platoon and the additional staffing called in for the flooding event made quick work of this fire. No injuries were reported, and damage was confined to the apartment of origin.

## Planning Department

### Public Square Fountain Restoration:

Robinson Iron, Inc. is progressing well on the restoration and repainting of the Public Square Fountain. To date, they have disassembled the fountain, blasted the oxidation and old paint away and have made minor repairs. They are now beginning to zinc coat the fountain and will then put on the primer paint. Once primed, it will be water tested and then ultimately coated with the final topcoat of paint.



### Urban Forestry:

The City of Watertown recently received notice of award totaling \$400,000 through NYSDEC's Inflation Reduction Act funded, *Tree Management Plan Implementation Grant*.

This funding will be used throughout Watertown's Disadvantaged Communities Areas; as defined by the federal government, for the purposes of tree planting, tree maintenance, and efforts to minimizing the impacts of invasive species threats such as the Emerald Ash Borer and Dutch Elm Disease. The City anticipates finalizing a contract with NYSDEC later this fall.



## Parks and Recreation Department

### Dinosaur Adventure:

The Parks & Recreation Department hosted Dinosaur Adventure July 27<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup>. This new event provided an opportunity for the community to enjoy life-sized dinosaurs, crafts, games, obstacle courses and much more!



### **International Lifeguard Appreciation Day:**

July 31<sup>st</sup> was international lifeguard appreciation day. Thank you to each of our lifeguards who work daily to ensure safety at our pools!



### **Watertown Fairgrounds:**

On Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup> DPAO held the Justin Moore concert at the Watertown Fairgrounds. The weather was great as was the show! Opening for Justin Moore was the Custom Taylor Band and Josh Cox and the Rattle Snakes.



### **Thompson Park Golf Course:**

August 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> the Thompson Park Golf Course took its turn hosting this year's NNYGA 6 Man Tournament. After two days of competitive play, the tournament was won by the Thompson Park Golf Course team, with a combined low score of 895. Close behind was Malone with a score of 902 and Massena with 914. TPGC was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> after the first day, right behind Malone and Massena, before posting the low score of the tournament of 443 on day two.

Participating teams: Thompson Park Golf Course, Partridge Run, Tupper Lake, C-Way, Potsdam, St. Lawrence, Massena, Carlowden, Gouverneur and Malone.

Thompson Park was represented by Season Pass Holders, Joe Tufo, Bob Hughes, Nate Heller, Marcus Emerson, DJ Marconi, and Josh Woodward along with Super Senior (Over 65) Deane Manning, Senior (Over 55) Bob Phillips, and Junior Tanner Esposito.

The Medalist (Low individual both days combined) went to Anthony Viskovich of Massena.

Low Senior went to Todd Slate of Carlowden.

Low Super Senior went to Deane Manning of TPGC.

Low Junior went to Raine Rumble of Gouverneur.



### **Youth Baseball All-Star Games:**

This year's youth baseball all-star games were held on Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>! Kids in the 10U and 13U age divisions were able to showcase their skills under the lights on the main ballfield!

A very special thank you to Larry LaFave, who has coordinated this event for 35 years! In addition to organizing the all-star game, Larry coached youth baseball for 29 years. This will be Larry's final year organizing the all-star game. Thank you, Larry, for your years of dedication to the game of baseball, the youth of our community, and the City of Watertown!

Also, thank you Nancy LaFave for your many years of assisting with this event!

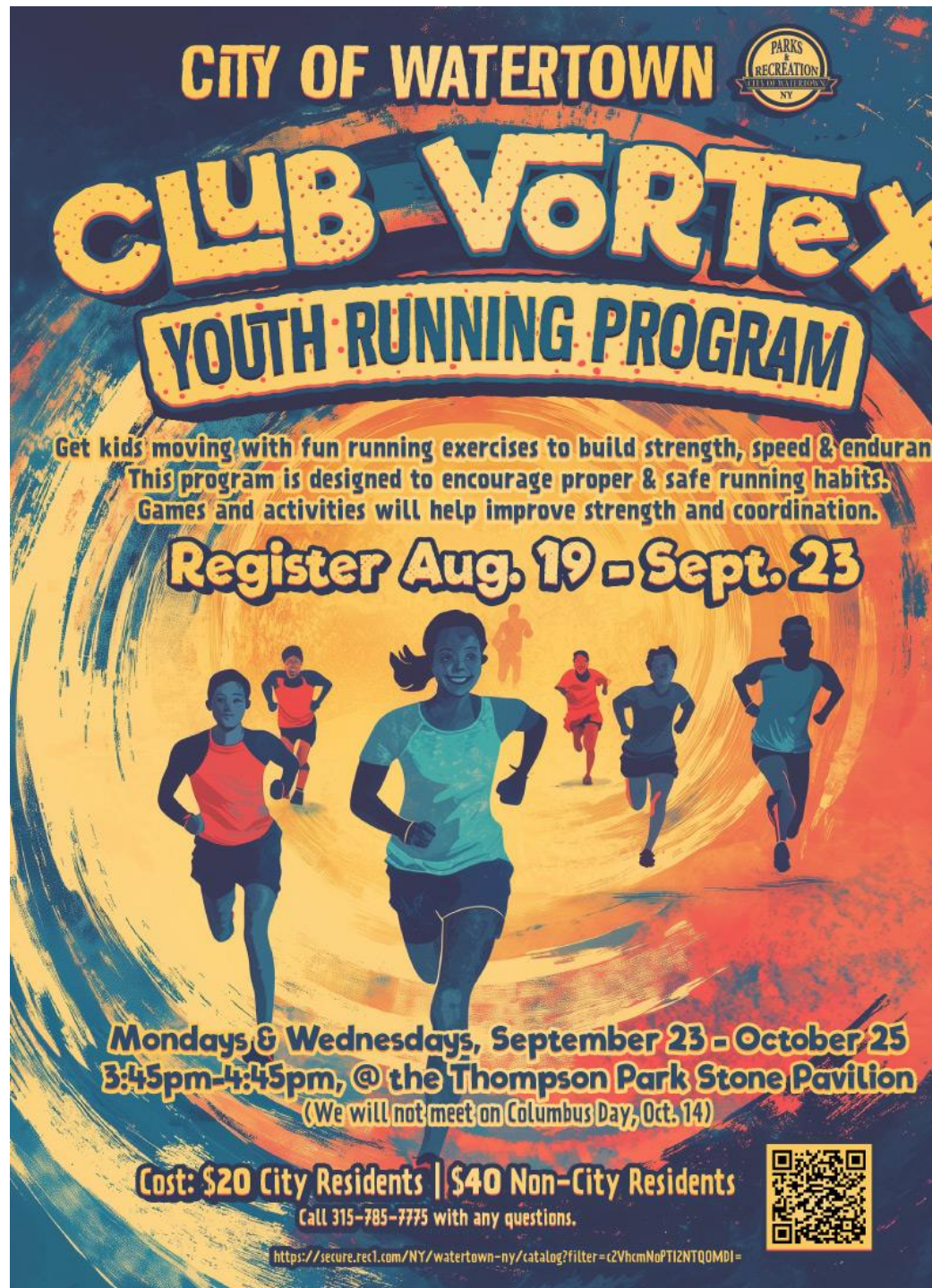



### Thompson Park Clean Up:

Parks & Recreation crews are working this week to clear stumps and brush in various areas of Thompson Park and the around the golf course.



Check out the upcoming running program in Thompson Park! Registration begins August 19<sup>th</sup>!




**CITY OF WATERTOWN** 

# CLUB VORTEX

## YOUTH RUNNING PROGRAM

Get kids moving with fun running exercises to build strength, speed & endurance!  
 This program is designed to encourage proper & safe running habits.  
 Games and activities will help improve strength and coordination.


### Register Aug. 19 - Sept. 23



**Mondays & Wednesdays, September 23 - October 25**  
**3:45pm-4:45pm, @ the Thompson Park Stone Pavilion**  
 (We will not meet on Columbus Day, Oct. 14)

**Cost: \$20 City Residents | \$40 Non-City Residents**  
 Call 315-785-7775 with any questions.

<https://secure.recl.com/NY/watertown-ny/catalog?filter=c2VhcmNoPTI2NTQ0MDI=>



## Department of Public Works

### Electrical updates:



DPW electricians have been out replacing old inefficient parking lot lights with new LED. These new LED's are not only better on electric usage, they also provide more lighting coverage.



### Storm Damage:



DPW has been out during the past few rain events closing streets from flooding, repairing washouts, and replacing Manhole covers back into their frames. Staff workday and night to maintain the streets. Although the city at large didn't experience much damage as the surrounding communities, it still produces work for DPW to evaluate the whole

collection system before the next one.

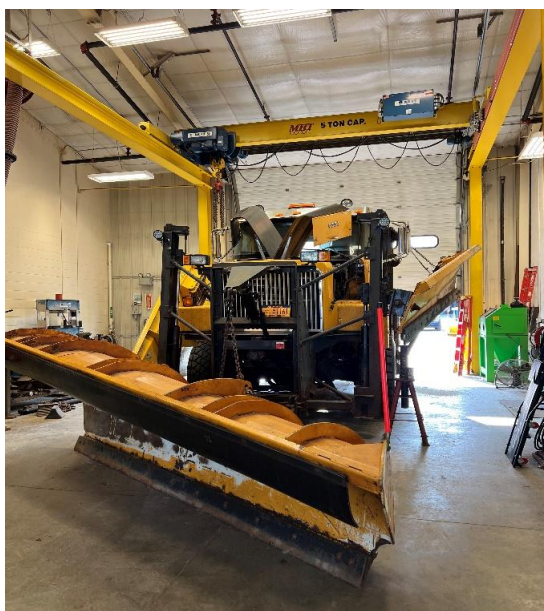
### Storm Tree Damage:



DPW crews have been out removing trees damaged by the many storms we have had this year. Trees can appear healthy from the outside but can be a hazard. Any trees that look rotten, broken, or have branches that are about to fall should be called in to DPW to address.



### Winter Prep:



DPW has started winter preparations. Plow trucks are being serviced and general repairs are underway. The central garage

starts preparing for winter during summer which is quite normal and is expected to be completely ready for the first snowfall.

## Human Resources and Civil Service



### Civil Service Opportunities

The City of Watertown has several employment opportunities:

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| ♦ City Assessor                    | ♦ Police Officer Transfer                 |
| ♦ Civil Engineer I                 | ♦ Refuse/Recycle Motor Equipment Operator |
| ♦ GIS Technician                   | ♦ School Crossing Guard                   |
| ♦ Laborer                          | ♦ Senior Planner                          |
| ♦ Motor Equipment Operator (Light) | ♦ Stock Attendant                         |
| ♦ Municipal Worker                 | ♦ Superintendent of Water                 |
| ♦ Parks & Rec Attendant            | ♦ Transit Operator                        |



The Civil Service Commission is accepting applications for the  
Police Officer Exam!



**Application deadline is August 22, 2024**

**Exam will be September 28, 2024**

**Now accepting applications for several exams:**

- |                                      |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| * <i>IT Specialist</i>               | * <i>Chief WTP Operator</i>     |
| * <i>Computer Support Technician</i> | * <i>Chief WWTP Operator</i>    |
| * <i>Police Lieutenant</i>           | * <i>WWTP Process Worker II</i> |
| * <i>Police Officer</i>              |                                 |



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