

Special Recognition from Staff and Fort Drum Man of the Mountain 2025

Recognizing Leadership Beyond Boundaries

This week, the City is proud to share a meaningful recognition that reflects both honor and impact, our very own City Manager, Mr. Henricus “Eric” Wagenaar, was named 2025 Man of the Mountain by Fort Drum and the 10th Mountain Division.

The Man of the Mountain award is a prestigious recognition given to individuals who embody the spirit and values of the 10th Mountain Division and strengthen the ties between Fort Drum and the North Country community. Eric was selected not only for his previous military and civilian service at Fort Drum, but also for his dedication to connecting our City and its residents with the region’s military families.



His role in integrating military celebrations such as the combined event for the Rededication of the 10th Mountain Division Monument and 250th Army Birthday celebration demonstrates how civic leadership can bridge communities, strengthen regional pride, and deepen shared understanding.

We often speak about commitment to Watertown. Eric’s efforts at Fort Drum and as City Manager serve as a reminder that impactful leadership transcends municipal boundaries. His recognition is well deserved—and just imagine what more can be accomplished with this kind of vision and collaboration at the helm.

As Eric often reminds us, **“All Roads Lead to Watertown.”** It's more than a phrase, it reflects his dedication to ensuring that our City remains a place of opportunity, connection, and community for everyone.

Please join us in congratulating our City Manager on this well-earned honor.

City Manager's Status and Information Update

June 27, 2025

Check out
our Website!

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



Opportunities with Watertown

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

✓ Assistant City Engineer	✓ Refuse/Recycle MEO
✓ Golf Course Maint Worker	✓ Motor Equip Operator
✓ Laborer I	✓ Municipal Worker I
✓ Facilities Maintenance Worker	✓ Information Technology Specialist

For more opportunities click the QR Code here:



Civil Service

JOIN OUR TEAM



Current Vacancies:

- Assistant City Engineer
- City Forester
- Facility Maintenance Worker
- Golf Course Maintenance Worker
- IT Specialist
- Laborer I
- Motor Equipment Operator
- Municipal Worker I
- Parks & Recreation Attendant
- Police Officer Transfer
- Refuse/Recycle MEO
- Seasonal Laborer
- Transit Operator (FT / PT)

New Exam Opportunity Coming Soon!
Police Officer
to be held
September 20, 2025!

Apply through our online portal:

www.watertown-ny.gov
Select Employment Opportunities



New Hires

We are pleased to welcome the newest City of Watertown team members and are excited to have them on board!!

- Robert Pruitt – DPW Principal Account Clerk
- Daniel Vankouwenberg – DPW City Forester

City Council Meetings



Stay updated with the meeting minutes from the June 16, 2025, City Council Meeting:

[Click Photo for Meeting Minutes](#)

Reminder:

The City Council meets on 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 on 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. The 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.

The City Council Meetings for July are **Monday, July 7**, and **Monday, July 21, 2025**. The July City Council Work Session is on **Monday, July 14**.

Planning Department

Site Plan Review 1068 Arsenal Street 7 Brew – Staff is currently reviewing an application for site plan approval to construct a 510 square foot 7 Brew coffee shop and a 388 square foot cooler and storage structure at 1068 Arsenal Street. The application, submitted by Brian Evans of Brew Team NY, LLC, will be reviewed at the next Planning Commission meeting scheduled for 6:00 pm on July 1, 2025.

Site Plan Review 229 Massey Street North Stewart's – Staff has reviewed an application for site plan approval to construct a 4,500 square foot Stewart's Shops convenience store, a 2,000 square foot gas canopy and associated site improvements on lands that currently comprise 229 Massey Street North, 219 Coffeen Street, 327 Coffeen Street, and 203 Massey Street North. The

preliminary site plan application, submitted by Charles Marshall of Stewart's Shops Corp, was reviewed at the May 1st Planning Commission Meeting. The Planning Commission will review the final site plans at a Special Planning Commission meeting which will be held on July 10th at 5:00pm.

Huntington Street Water Main Reconstruction Design – Planning, Engineering, Water and DPW Staff held a kickoff meeting on Wednesday, June 25, 2025 with the design team from GYMO, D.P.C. The project, which involves the replacement of the water main on Huntington Street, is being partially funded with Community Development Block Grant fund. Planning Staff recently completed the Environmental Review Record (ERR) for this project, which is a requirement of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) whenever the City spends federal money on a project.

Burlington Street Reconstruction Project ERR Amendment – Planning Staff conducted a Bat Emergence Survey on the evening of June 3, 2025 at the project site. The survey was necessitated when it became apparent that a tree removal would



need to occur during the summer months. The entire City of Watertown is a defined habitat for the Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat, both of which are Endangered Species, and are known to roost in trees during summer. Staff observed the tree in question for approximately 1 ½ hours before, during, and after sunset to watch for bats emerging from the tree in accordance with United States Fish and Wildlife Service guidance and after consulting with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). No bats were observed during the survey.

The survey represented an amendment to the ERR, and enabled the City to reach a determination that the project will have no impact on Endangered Species based on conducting the emergence survey. The original ERR reached a “no impact” determination based on an original plan to remove trees only during winter, when bats are in hibernation. The need for a summer takedown necessitated the amendment.

Fire Department

Safety Stand Down Training:

The International Association of Firefighters and the International Association of Fire Chiefs along with NFPA and the Fire Department Safety Officers Association sponsor the Firefighter Safety Stand Down training. During the week of June 16-22, firefighters across the nation dedicate time for training solely related to firefighter safety. Our department took a couple of days for each shift and covered topics such as Emergency Vehicle Operation safety, “close call” experiences with-in the department, on-scene safety, engine house

safety, and health and mental wellness. We also had a guest speaker, Fire Chief Scott Burnette, Ashville NC Fire Department, who talked about the need for cultural change toward safety in the fire service.

Carbon Monoxide Incident:

On June 24, 2025, at approximately 12:15 p.m., the City of Watertown Fire Department responded to a report of a carbon monoxide alarm at 336 W. Main Street, Curtis Apartments.

Upon arrival, low levels of carbon monoxide were detected throughout the building. Residents were evacuated, and both National Grid and the City of Watertown Code Enforcement were requested and responded promptly.

The Fire Department used high-powered electric fans to ventilate the entire building. After investigation, National Grid and Code Enforcement determined that the source of the carbon monoxide was not from the building's equipment, but was likely due to a contractor operating fuel-powered equipment outside near an entrance, with prevailing winds carrying the exhaust into the building.

Once the building was fully ventilated and confirmed clear of carbon monoxide, all residents were allowed to return to their homes.

There were no reported injuries or illnesses among the residents. However, a member of the building's management reported feeling ill and was treated and transported by Guilfoyle Ambulance to SMC for evaluation.

Structure Fire Responses:

In the last week, the department responded to four (4) reported structure fires within the City. They were related to overheated oil on the stove, burning light fixture in a commercial occupancy, overheated appliance in a restaurant and an overheated sump pump. All incidents created significant smoke conditions but were mitigated quickly before any significant fire damage could occur.

Recent Storm Event:

During the recent weather event the department was busy dealing with a large volume of emergency responses. The department responded to approximately 80 calls for service involving wires down, trees down across the road and into cars and houses, water pumping, alarm activations, odors in buildings and reported structure fire. The storm resulted in significant damage throughout the city and fortunately for everyone involved the only injuries reported were minor injuries to an individual who was in a car that had a tree fall on it.

Police Department

Attempted Kidnapping Arrest:

At about 3:40 pm on June 16, 2025, we were notified of an attempted kidnapping in the area of the intersection of Academy and S. Rutland Streets. It was reported that an older white male with a beard grabbed an 11-year-old male child by the arm and attempted to drag him down the street. As a result of the investigation, Daniel Scott Tibbles (age 50, residing at 142 Mechanic St. in Watertown), was arrested and charged with Attempted Kidnapping in the Second Degree (class 'D' felony). Tibbles was arraigned and held on \$5,000 cash bail.

Police Academy:

The Black River/St. Lawrence Valley Police Academy Class of **2025-2026** is in it's second full week of training. In the picture, WPD Officer Omar McKoy is marching the recruits from the classroom to a grassy location to conduct drill & ceremony training on day #1.



The new police academy recruits spent their second full week of the academy at the firing range.



Police Lateral Transfers:

The Watertown Police Department is continuing to look 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>

Community:

Chief Donoghue attended the annual Remembrance Ceremony (Memorial Park) and the Community Partner Luncheon and Division Brief (Oats Lodge) on Ft. Drum on June 25th. After the Division Brief, City Manager Eric Wagenaar was honored as this year's "Man of the Mountain!"



City Manager Eric Wagenaar is congratulated by 10th Mountain Division Commander, MG Scott Naumann.

Therapy Dog:



Luna is still a pup and likes to cool off on the hallway floor when it's hot outside!



She also loves taking naps between her missions.

Public Works Department

Roads Crew:

Crews working on paving Washington Street to smooth it out for the traveling public.



Buildings and Grounds:



Brush and Yard waste cleanup undergoing with DPW's new addition to the fleet. This process is more efficient and less time-consuming.

Painting picnic tables at Veterans Memorial Parkway

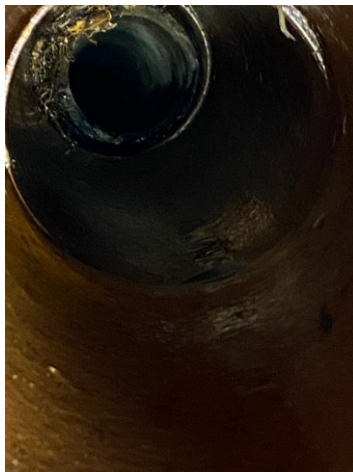


Electrical:

DPW crews are working on overhead lighting. Lighting work continues throughout the city when needed. Lighting could be field lighting, parking lighting, or traffic lighting.

**Sewer Laterals:**

DPW crews repaired another sewer lateral. Whether is broken, clogged, or full of roots, the crew does there best to keep everything maintained.



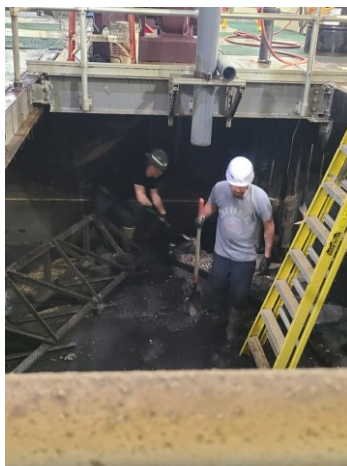
Water Department



The Pollution Control Facility (PCF) uses aeration tanks to treat wastewater, supported by high-speed centrifugal blowers. Instead of outsourcing, staff are installing the blower in-house—saving money and building skills through hands-on training and mentorship.



The front steps of the control building at the Pollution Control Facility had been deteriorating, but the staff took the initiative and successfully repaired them—demonstrating pride in their workplace and commitment to maintaining a safe, functional facility.



Nearly two inches of rain fell in under two hours, causing a surge through the City's combined sewer system. The sudden influx of stormwater scoured the pipes, flushing settled debris and washing materials from roadways into the system. While the Pollution Control Facility maintained permit-required flow throughout

the storm, it required immediate attention once the rain passed. Operators, trainees, and maintenance staff worked together to clear rocks and debris from the headworks, restoring normal operation of the screening



and grit removal equipment. Their quick response and teamwork ensured the plant continued running smoothly.



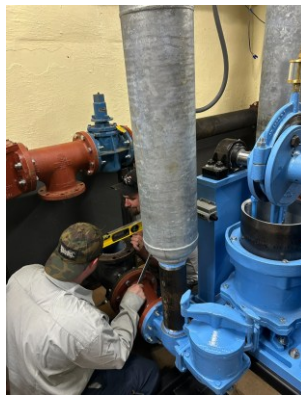
Junior operators are constantly learning at the Pollution Control Facility. Recently, an operator removed a valve that had stopped working due to years of buildup. Instead of replacing it, staff refurbished the valve—saving the City several hundred dollars and reinforcing valuable hands-on skills for newer operators.



The Work in Water (WiW) program, funded by the New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA), gives high school students the opportunity to learn about the water cycle and how local utilities protect the environment and public health. At the City of Watertown PCF, we receive a high volume of applications, so students are first given a facility tour to see if the program sparks their interest—since many are unaware of the rewarding career

opportunities available in municipal water work. This year, we can hire up to five high school students. The students will spend approximately two weeks at the Pollution Control Facility and one week at the Filtration Plant, gaining hands-on experience in both wastewater treatment and solids handling as well as drinking water treatment.

Work continues on the new pump to improve tank clearing for upcoming maintenance. Staff at the Pollution Control Facility have completed all the piping installation and are now focused on installing the pump's electrical components.



Employees at the Pollution Control Facility have isolated a tank in preparation for maintenance. Before entry, the tank is thoroughly cleaned. During preparation, operators fabricated a custom spray nozzle for a fire hose to help clear debris from the isolation valve. While the tank is emptied, operators will replace worn sprockets and chain, and a contractor will replace a damaged section of the walkway to ensure safe access and continued reliable operation.



Main Break/Leak Investigation:

On June 12, 2025 the 8-inch main on Academy Street was repaired by Distribution Staff.

Service Repairs:

Multitple service repairs have been conducted. The work performed ranged from ball valve replacement, to curb box resets, and frozen meter replacements/frozen service repairs. Service on Colorado Ave. was repaired on June 16, 2025 at the curbstop.



The Pollution Control Facility was alerted to unusually high-water usage, operational staff investigated and discovered a heavily eroded valve that was constantly leaking. The team quickly removed and replaced the valve, significantly reducing water consumption and preventing further waste.

Engineering Department

Burlington Street Reconstruction:



Burlington Street is undergoing a full road reconstruction. This includes new water and sanitary sewer mains, new sidewalks and retaining walls, and a new gas main. The selected contractor, POWIS Contracting, INC., has installed the final sanitary manhole and vacuum tested all six of the sanitary manholes. All the new sanitary sewer laterals have been installed, and POWIS has commenced with installing the new

water main. Attached are pictures of one of the new manholes, a sewer lateral, and connection to the sewer lateral main.



WOTS Backwater Prevention Plan Pilot:

Engineering has received 13 applications from residents who wish to participate in the Backwater Valve Program. Engineering and DPW have inspected 11 of the applicants' residences to determine the scope of work required for a successful valve installation.

We encourage other residents in the pilot area of the Western Outfall Basin to contact City Hall with any questions about the program.

Parks and Recreation Department

Concert in the Park – July 2, 2025:

FREE TO THE PUBLIC


Northern New York
Community
Foundation

**CONCERT
IN THE PARK**



WEDNESDAY, JULY 2

LIVE MUSIC FROM
DOUBLE BARREL BLUES BAND


SCAN TO DONATE

Orchestra
of
NORTHERN NEW YORK

MICHAEL J. COLBURN
MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR



THOMPSON PARK, WATERTOWN NY



5:30P-10:00P

FREE Movie Night – Saturday, July 26:



Junior Golf Camp:

JUNIOR GOLF CAMP



FOR KIDS AGES 6-14 YO



Whether you're new to the game or looking to sharpen your skills, our Junior Golf Camp is the perfect place to improve your swing, make new friends, and have a blast on the course



CITY RESIDENTS & MILITARY: \$50.00
NON-CITY RESIDENTS: \$100.00

JULY 1ST- 3RD 9AM-12PM
AT THOMPSON PARK GOLF COURSE
1 THOMPSON PARK WATERTOWN, NEW YORK 13601

REGISTRATION: JUNE 9TH-30TH

Camp will include:
Full swing fundamentals
Chipping basics
Putting drills & speed control
Skills challenge
Mini scramble game
& Much more!



315-785-7775

<https://secure.rec1.com/NY/watertown-ny/catalog>



Swim Lessons:

Registration opens three weeks prior to each session!

Keep calm and swim on!

SWIM LESSONS 2025

Session 1: Thompson Park Pool
-10:45-11:30-
Week 1 - July 7-11
Week 2 - July 14-18
Week 3 - July 21-25

Session 2: Flynn Pool
-10:15-11:00-
Week 1 - July 28-August 1
Week 2 - August 4-8

Level Descriptions:
Level 1A (Introductory)

- no previous experience
- introduction to water skills

Level 1B (Beginner)

- minimal experience
- learning fundamental skills

Level 2 (Intermediate)

- skills performed with assistance
- building on and improving learned skills

Level 3 (Experienced)

- skills performed unassisted
- increasing proficiency of learned skills

\$25*
City Resident

Program Rates:
City Resident & Military : \$25
Non-City Resident : \$45



To register scan QR code or go to
<https://secure.recl.com/NY/watertown-ny/catalog>

For Assistance call (315) 785-7775







Summer Rec:

**PARKS
&
RECREATION**
CITY OF WATERTOWN
NY

Summer Playground Program

July 7 thru August 15, 2025

Monday thru Friday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Playground Program Locations:
 Thompson Park (by the Splash Pad)
 North Hamilton playground,
 Emerson Place Playground,
 Flynn Pool (Monday, Wednesday, Friday)
 North Elementary Playground (Tuesday, Thursday)

Drop-in only. No preregistration required!

Check our Facebook page
[Facebook.com/Watertownparksandrecreation](https://www.facebook.com/Watertownparksandrecreation)
 for weekly activities!

Watertown Rapids Baseball:

**The Watertown Rapids' next home game is scheduled for
Friday, June 27 at 6:30 PM!**

Come out and cheer on your local baseball team!

For more information and the full season schedule, visit:

🔗 <https://watertownrapids.baseballshift.com>

Watertown Red & Black Football:

**The Watertown Red & Black play their next home game on
Saturday, July 26th at 7:00 PM!**

The Watertown Red and Black is the oldest semi-pro football team in the
United States,
having been established in 1896.

For more information and the full season schedule, visit:

🔗 <https://www.watertownredandblack.com/>