

**City Manager's
Status and
Information
Update**

January 9, 2026

**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

The City of Watertown is more than a workplace; it is a place where your work makes a real difference every day. From maintaining essential services to supporting our active community, our employees play a vital role in shaping the quality of life for residents and visitors alike. If you are looking for meaningful work, professional growth, and the chance to serve your community, we invite you to explore the opportunities currently available with the City of Watertown.

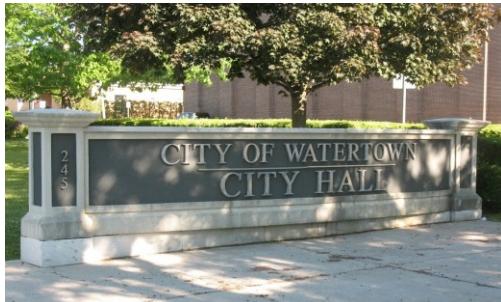
Vacancies/Civil Service



For a complete list of all the opportunities available, visit our website:

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

City Council Meetings



Stay updated with the meeting minutes from the January 5, 2026, City Council Meeting:

[01-05-2026 Meeting Minutes](#)

Reminder:

The City Council Meetings for January are on **Monday, January 5, and Tuesday, January 20, 2026**. The January City Council Work Session is **Monday, January 12, 2026**.

Purchasing Department

The City of Watertown's Purchasing Department is responsible for acquiring goods, services, and construction projects on behalf of the City. The department ensures that procurement processes are fair, transparent, and competitive through a formal bidding process.

The following Bid opportunities are available:

Bid #2025-18 Trickling Filter Pump Repair Project – Deadline 1/13/26

The City of Watertown is seeking sealed bids from qualified bidders to remove, repair, and reinstall two (2) Trickling Filter Pumps at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Please use the link below for additional information or visit our website at [City of Watertown - Purchasing Department](#).

<https://prod3.evo.cloud/watertownny/portal/bids/498/>

Bid #2025-15 Hydro Facility Headwater Level PLC Control System Upgrade Phase 2 – Build and Installation Contract – Deadline 1/15/26

The City of Watertown is seeking sealed bids from qualified bidders to supply all labor, materials and equipment to perform the Hydro Facility PLC Control System Upgrade, the Headwater Control Panel design and install, the radio communications between Headwater Control Panel and City Network switch, and the Bypass sensor wiring and mounting. Please use the link below for additional information or visit our website at [City of Watertown - Purchasing Department](#).

<https://prod3.evo.cloud/watertownny/portal/bids/496/>

Bid #2025-24 Watertown Water Treatment Plant Water Quality

Improvement Project – Tree Clearing – Deadline 1/20/26

The City of Watertown is seeking sealed bids from qualified bidders to clear trees including the removal of stumps, shrubs, and underbrush. Please use the link below for additional information or visit our website at [City of Watertown - Purchasing Department](#).

<https://prod3.evo.cloud/watertownny/portal/bids/499/>

Bid #2025-04 Lift Stations Systems and Controls Upgrade – Deadline 1/29/26

The City of Watertown is seeking sealed bids from qualified bidders to supply all labor, materials and equipment to perform the upgrades to the Gaffney Drive, Vanduzee Street, and Barben-Green Drive Lift Stations per the specifications. Please use the link below for additional information or visit our website at [City of Watertown - Purchasing Department](#).

<https://prod3.evo.cloud/watertownny/portal/bids/500/>

If you are not already in our Evobid system, you will have to create a log in to our website system to download the specifications. Once you submit your information, you will be notified of any changes on the Bid or RFP. You will also automatically be invited to view any other project related to your company and have access to our EvoBids platform to view any bids/RFPs currently open by the City of Watertown. Thank you.

For additional information, feel free to reach out to the Purchasing Department at 315-785-7749 or visit our website at [City of Watertown - Purchasing Department](#)

Police Department

Black River/St. Lawrence Valley Police Academy:

The Black River/St. Lawrence Valley Police Academy Class of 2025-2026 has completed the 29-week classroom portion of Basic Course for Police Officers and has moved on to the 14-week “Field Training” portion of the course. During field training, each recruit is paired up with a NY State certified “Field Training Officer” (FTO). The field training program allows the new officers to put their classroom knowledge to work on the street, answering calls and conducting proactive patrols, while being directly supervised and guided by the FTOs. The recruits are gradually given more responsibility until they can respond to calls and conduct investigations without assistance from the

FTO. If they are successful in the field training portion of the course, they will graduate from the police academy and become certified police officers.



WPD Recruit Officer Shannon Gnall is pictured (above) obtaining a motorist's documents during a vehicle stop and verifying the license and registration on the mobile data terminal.



WPD Recruit Officer Tory Royster-Fears is pictured (above) securing evidence and entering information into the mobile data terminal.

During the last few days of classes, the recruits worked on their active shooter training.



In the picture on the left, the academy recruits are securing the hallway while two other recruits clear a classroom. The picture on the right shows the recruits exiting the classroom and rejoining the team.

Fire Department

The Fire Department has had a busy few weeks with reported structure fires:

- 12/21/2025: The department responded to 1211 Ohio St. to find a fully involved structure fire with people trapped. The people self-extricated from the building with injuries and were sent to SMC and Syracuse for treatment. Several pets died in the fire. The fire was brought under control relatively quickly, and crews remained on scene for overhaul and fire investigation. Two firefighters received minor injuries.
- 12/26/2025: The department responded to 431 Paddock St. for a possible structure fire. Companies arrived at nothing evident from the exterior, but investigation found the source of the smoke condition to be a faulty refrigerator in the basement.
- 12/31/2025: The department responded to a possible structure fire at 826 Bradley St., a house full of smoke. Companies arrived, and the investigation found that there had been a cooking fire that was out on arrival and did not extend into the structural portion of the building.
- 1/1/2026: The department responded to 1283 Arsenal St., Applebee's Restaurant, for an odor of something burning. Companies investigated and found an issue with a rooftop HVAC unit and isolated the unit until proper repairs could be made.
- 1/3/2026: The department responded to 600 WT Fields Dr., Watertown Ice Arena, for the smell of something burning and a smoke condition. Companies investigated and found that a high-voltage electrical wire servicing the chiller had malfunctioned and burned. Crews from the Electrical Department and Parks & Recreation assisted fire crews in isolating the power to the unit so proper repairs could be made.
- 1/4/2026: The department dispatched mutual aid to the Town of Watertown for a structure fire at 24913 Arbor Dr., Watertown, NY. Crews assisted in extinguishment and overhaul until they were released from the scene by the Town of Watertown command. One Watertown firefighter received an injury to his arm and was evaluated at SMC Emergency room.



Training:

Members of the department who are interested in receiving training for officer development started the Fire Officer 1 class on Wednesday, January 6, 2026. The class will continue to meet once or twice a week for several months, concluding with a national certification test at the end.

The department will also be conducting its annual Haz-Mat refresher class and drill this month.

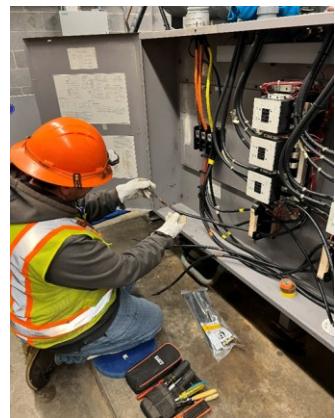
Public Works Department

Roads Crew:

The recently constructed salt storage facility is particularly crucial during this season, especially given the temperature fluctuations that permit complete access to salt for utilization across the city.

Electrical:

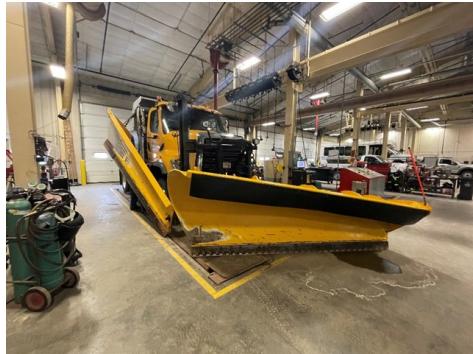
Crews work together to take down Christmas decorations after the holiday season.



Electrical crew works at the Arena to repair crucial elements.

Central Garage:

DPW mechanics continue to work around the clock to repair and keep all our city assets on the road operating safely and efficiently.



Refuse:

REMINDER: Updated Refuse Collection Guidelines FULLY IN EFFECT

The City of Watertown reminds residents that updated refuse collection guidelines were approved by City Council on September 15, 2025, and became effective December 1, 2025.

A complete copy of the [guidelines](#) is available on the City's website and at the Department of Public Works (DPW).

Key Changes Include:

- Containment Requirements:**

Pursuant to City Code §161-1, all rubbish must be contained in approved watertight trash/garbage cans, or trash/garbage totes for proper disposal pursuant to Section 161-1.1.

- City-Provided Tote Sticker:**

The Department of Public Works will provide a tote sticker at no cost for residents to affix to their personal container to verify authorization for curbside collection. If you do not have a tote sticker, they are available at the same locations where you buy stickers or at the DPW building.

- New Collection Routes:**

Residents are advised to carefully review the updated collection routes, as pickup days may have changed. The attached maps provide a general overview and may not reflect all changes. *Residents should use the link provided in the guidelines to access the official interactive maps on the City's website to verify their specific collection day.*

- Expansion of Services to Commercial Properties:**

In accordance with City Code §161-6, refuse collection services are now being extended to commercial (non-residential) properties at the discretion of the Superintendent of Public Works based on site location, site access, and the type and quantity of refuse generated.

Please note that the new guidelines must be followed to be collected. As part of the transition process, DPW continued to pick up refuse throughout the month of December that did not meet the new refuse guidelines. This will no longer be the case and DPW will no longer pick up refuse that does not meet the new guidelines.

Residents are encouraged to share this information with neighbors, tenants, and property owners to help ensure community-wide awareness and compliance.

For additional information or questions, please contact the City of Watertown Department of Public Works at 315-785-7842.

Water Distribution Department

Service Repair:



Six-inch service isolation work was completed to support a fire suppression contractor in making necessary repairs. In addition, several service repairs were performed, including the replacement of a section of galvanized pipe and a meter tailpiece, as shown in the photo.

Service Replacements:

On December 16, 2025 a service was renewed from the curb stop to the meter on Holcomb Street.

Main Break/Leak Investigation:

On November 28, 2025, City staff completed two water main repairs on Griffin Street. Additional valve repair work is planned for nearby streets in the coming months to help improve system reliability. A new valve was also installed at the location of the second break.



A new 4-inch valve was added on Griffin at the location of the second break.



Images of the first repair excavation.



On December 6 and 11, staff repaired the 10-inch main, once at Starbuck and Seward and once at 725 Starbuck.

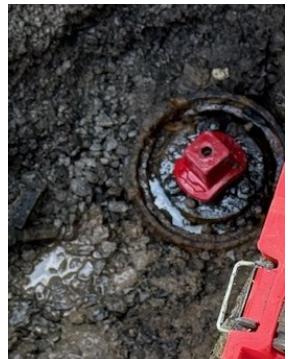
Repair at 725 Starbuck



Repair at Starbuck and Seward

Additional Water Main Repair Updates:

City Water staff completed several additional water main repairs over the past month to maintain system reliability. On December 15, a 6-inch water main on Ball Avenue was repaired. This was followed by the replacement of a tee and two valves on Eastern Boulevard on December 18. Most recently, on January 6, staff completed repairs to a 6-inch water main on Cooper Street.

Value and Hydrant Repair Work:

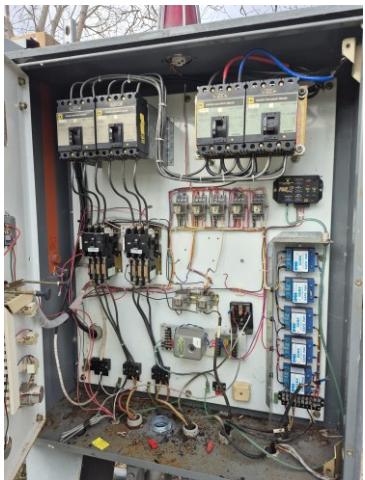
The Water Department crews have completed multiple valve and hydrant repairs throughout the City as part of ongoing efforts to improve system reliability and support more effective water shutdowns in problem areas of the distribution system. Valve repairs were completed at Flower Avenue West and Sherman Street, as well as at East Hoard Avenue and Mill Street.

Valve Repair at Flower Ave. West and Sherman

In addition, several fire hydrants were repaired following motor vehicle accidents and routine system operations. Repairs were made at 338 Court Street and at the intersection of Colorado and Ohio. The hydrant on Scio Street at Arsenal required a stem reset following a structure fire. Most recently, on January 5, the side steamer nipple on a hydrant was replaced after damaged threads were identified.



Waste Water Department



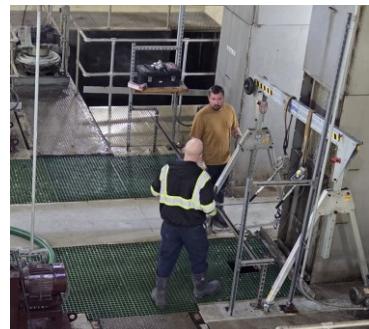
Aging infrastructure remains a top priority for the City. Planned upgrades to communications and control systems are underway at pump stations throughout the collection system. While awaiting bids for these improvements, a control system failure occurred at one lift station. Pollution Control Facility maintenance staff promptly installed temporary floats to keep the station operating safely and reliably.



During winter biosolids storage operations, mudflaps are often damaged or lost during dumping. Pollution Control Facility staff addressed this issue by fabricating protective guards for the mudflaps, helping prevent premature wear and unnecessary replacements.

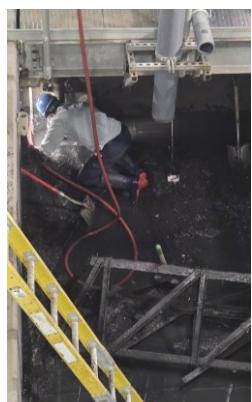


The most recent storm caused the headworks at the Pollution Control Facility to experience an excessive buildup of grit and debris, requiring an intensive



weeklong effort by staff to restore normal operations. Team members disassembled

equipment to safely remove debris from and return critical systems to service. Due to the extent of the damage, one grit pump could not be salvaged and was replaced to ensure continued reliable operation of the facility.



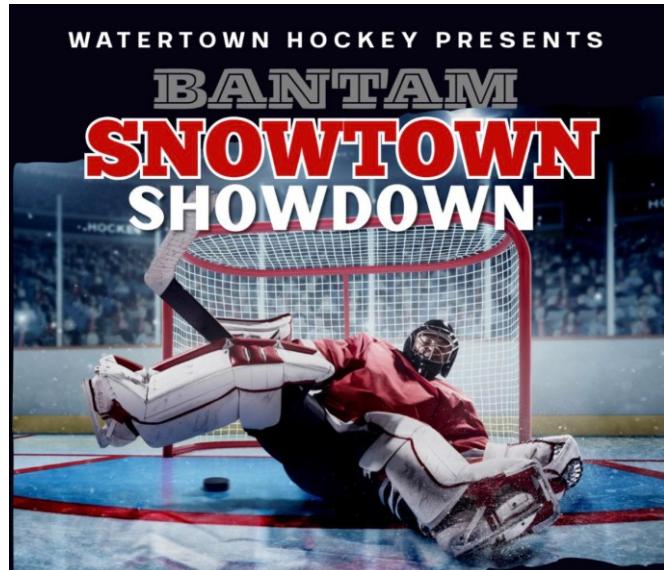
Heavy rain and snowmelt events send large amounts of sand and debris to the Pollution Control Facility, straining our aging systems. During a recent event, excessive grit overwhelmed the primary grit chamber. In freezing temperatures operations and maintenance staff removed grit by ratcheting each bucket by hand, restoring the equipment, and keeping the facility running smoothly.



The Pollution Control Facility recycles methane gas generated during the stabilization of organic material. When a motor on the gas treatment skid began faulting, maintenance staff quickly identified the issue and restored the system to proper operation.

Parks and Recreation Department

Watertown Municipal Arena:



Watertown Hockey

Association: The WHA is hosting a 14U tournament this weekend at the Watertown Municipal Arena. The tournament will run Friday through Sunday and feature teams from across the region. Stop down and support our local youth hockey teams!

Public Skate: Daily skating is available at the Watertown Municipal Arena. Please visit the following site for up-to-date schedules:

[Watertown Municipal Arena](#) or our [Facebook Page](#)

JCC Ice Hockey:



The Cannoneers next home game is scheduled for Monday, January 12th at 6:30 PM! Come out and cheer on your local college hockey team!

For more information and the full season schedule, visit:

✉ <https://www.cannoneerathletics.com/sports/cice/2025-26/schedule>

Watertown Wolves Hockey:



Upcoming Watertown Wolves Games:

Saturday, January 17
 Saturday, January 24
 Friday, January 30
 Saturday, January 31

For a full schedule visit www.watertownwolves.net

IHC Hockey:



IHC High School Home Games:

Thursday, January 15th

Slip, Slide & Skate:

Our Slip, Slide & Skate program is back this Spring with another fun-filled session! Whether your child is brand new to skating or ready to build on their skills, this class teaches the fundamentals such as balance, basic techniques, fun tricks, and even how to safely get up after a fall. Through games and guided activities, skaters gain confidence while having a great time on the ice. Spots will fill quickly, so be sure to sign up for Session 2 and let your child slip, slide, and skate their way into spring!

CITY OF WATERTOWN 

Slip, Slide, & Skate
...Learn to Skate!

Registration: January 26th - February 23rd

Program Dates:

Tuesdays:
 February 24
 March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Class time: 7:40-8:40pm for Ages 6+
Helmets Recommended for all ages

Basic Instruction Provided
 All Classes will be held as scheduled, unless notified

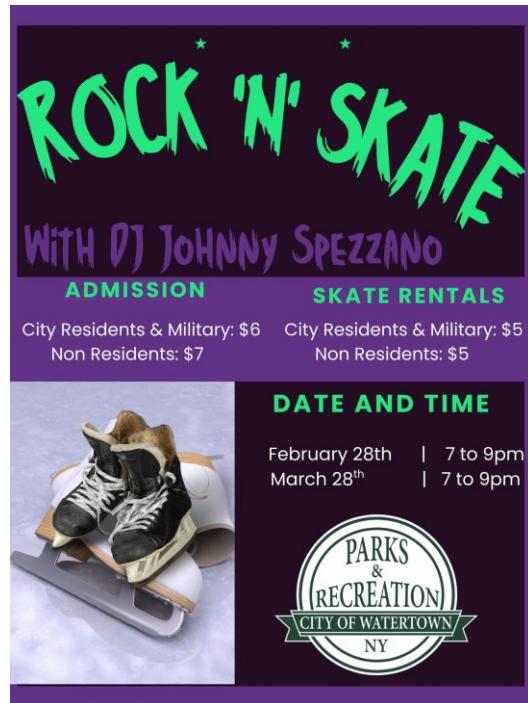
Class & Skate Rentals
 \$40 - City Resident/Military
 \$80 - Non City Resident

Class Only (no skate rentals)
 \$30 - City Resident/Military
 \$60 - Non City Resident

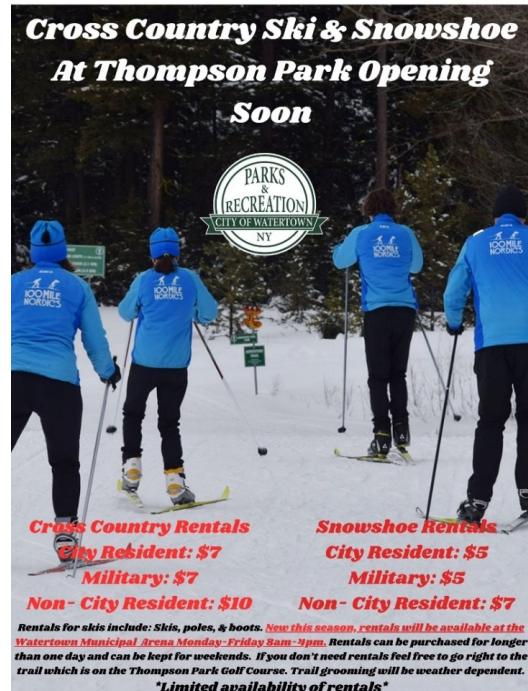
Register online:
<https://secure.rec1.com/NY/watertown-ny/catalog>
 If you need assistance please call:
 315-785-7775


Class Only



Rock 'N' Skate:

Join us for an upcoming Rock & Skate at the Watertown Municipal Arena! Enjoy a fun-filled skating session with music provided by Johnny Spezzano, who will be spinning all your favorite tunes throughout the night. Bring your friends and family, lace up your skates, and come enjoy a great atmosphere, great music, and a fun night on the ice!

Cross Country Ski Trails:

The cross-country ski trails in Thompson Park are officially open, weather permitting! Join the many community members who have already been out enjoying the freshly groomed trails by skiing or snowshoeing through the park's scenic landscape.

Cross-country ski and snowshoe rentals are available at the Watertown Municipal Arena, Monday - Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Weekday rentals are available on a 24-hour basis, and full weekend rentals are offered for those looking to get out and explore Friday-Sunday.

Grab your gear, bundle up, and enjoy everything Thompson Park has to offer this winter!

Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library

