OCTOBER 9, 2026

CITY OF WATERTOWN

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

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.







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 October 5th, City Council Meeting:

City Council Meeting Minutes

Upcoming City Council Meetings - 7 pm in Council Chambers at City Hall

- Monday, October 19, 2026
- Monday, November 2, 2026

Upcoming City Council Work Sessions - 7 pm in Council Chambers at City Hall

- Tuesday, October 13, 2026

LIVE STREAMING

LIVE STREAM & ARCHIVES
Watch upcoming City Council meetings live or view past recordings online: All meetings are live-streamed through Steve Weed Productions on Rumble. Use the link below to find all previously and upcoming streamed meetings.

https://rumble.com/c/WatertownCityCouncil

CitiBus RIDER SURVEY



Beginning **Monday, September 28, 2026,** CitiBus will conduct a rider survey to gather feedback from passengers regarding the current fixed-route transit system.

The survey will remain open for **30 days** and will provide riders an opportunity to share feedback on current service, including routes, schedules, reliability, and overall transit needs.

The information collected will help CitiBus better understand passenger needs and will also provide valuable public input as the City moves forward with its Fixed Route Transit System Evaluation.

Individuals with questions regarding the survey or who require assistance or an accommodation to participate may contact Transportation Planner Jessica Raymond at:

(315) 785-7884 **jraymond@watertown-ny.gov**

EMPLOYEES OF THE QUARTER



EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

3RD QUARTER - 2026

This certificate is proudly presented to

John Zingaro

On behalf of the City of Watertown, we proudly recognize Captain John Zingaro for his outstanding dedication, leadership, and commitment to the Watertown Fire Department. Throughout his career, Captain Zingaro has consistently gone above and beyond, sharing his expertise, taking on additional responsibilities, and supporting his fellow firefighters and the community. His dependability, strong work ethic, and ability to lead by example make him an invaluable member of the department and a respected leader among his peers.

September 2026

Sarah V.C Pierce
Mayor

Eric Wagenaar
City Manager



EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

3RD QUARTER - 2026

This certificate is proudly presented to

John Eyles

On behalf of the City of Watertown, we proudly recognize John Eyles for his outstanding dedication, professionalism, and commitment to excellence. John has gone above and beyond in supporting the City Hall court renovation project, graciously navigating countless challenges and unexpected changes without complaint. His willingness to put forth extra effort and consistently support the needs of the City exemplifies the dedication and dependability of an outstanding employee.

September 2026

Sarah V.C Pierce
Mayor

Eric Wagenaar
City Manager



EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

3RD QUARTER - 2026

This certificate is proudly presented to

Matthew Owen

On behalf of the City of Watertown, we proudly recognize Matthew Owen for his outstanding contributions, innovation, and dedication to the City since November 2004. Matthew's vision and expertise established and developed the City's GIS program, transforming data into meaningful solutions that support departments and improve operations. His commitment to problem-solving, mentorship, and staff development continues to strengthen the organization and leave a lasting impact on the City of Watertown.

September 2026

Sarah V.C Pierce
Mayor

Eric Wagenaar
City Manager

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE CITY

Link to Hope: Suicide Prevention Training

Wednesday October 28th @ 6pm
in the 1812 Room (2nd floor)

If you were working and encountered someone experiencing a medical emergency, would you know what to do? There is a good chance you may have had some basic First Aid training in the past and would likely feel confident and competent to render some basic support until other resources could be introduced if necessary. Now imagine you encountered someone experiencing another type of emergency, some sort of emotional crisis, or distress. Perhaps so severe they were even thinking about suicide. Would you know how to recognize if someone might be in that level of distress and know how to offer similar assistance like First Aid?

In this 90 minute workshop we will review some very basic background information on suicide and then discuss the following:

1. How to recognize the ways in which a person thinking about suicide often invites help, either directly or indirectly
2. How to feel confident in approaching and connecting with that person to ask openly and directly about suicide
3. What to do if they respond with 'yes'
4. How to support someone if they acknowledge that they are thinking about suicide

RSVP required. Contact Ashley P. at 315.785.7714.







HALLOWEEN HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST

🎃👻 MAYOR PIERCE HOSTS THIRD ANNUAL HALLOWEEN HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST 🎃👻

Mayor Sarah V.C. Pierce is inviting Watertown residents to show off their spooky spirit in the City's third annual Halloween House Decorating Contest.

Last year, nearly 1,000 votes were cast in the contest. Following that strong response, Mayor Pierce is bringing the contest back for another season of Halloween fun.

Watertown residents who would like to participate can enter their home by submitting their address directly to Mayor Pierce at spierce@watertown-ny.gov or through her social media pages. Residents are also welcome to nominate other decorated homes they think deserve to be included.

The deadline to enter is ***October 14, 2026***. Voting will begin October 15 and will be open to the public through November 2. A voting form will be available through Mayor Pierce's social media pages and the Mayor's page on the City of Watertown website.

Each resident will be allowed one vote. The home receiving the most votes will win a basket of Halloween goodies, and the winner will be announced shortly after voting concludes.
Mayor Pierce said she is excited to continue what has quickly become a fun community tradition.

"Last year's contest was so much fun, and nearly 1,000 people took the time to vote. It's a simple way to get out and enjoy our neighborhoods, bring families together and celebrate the creativity of our residents," shared Mayor Pierce. "I'm looking forward to seeing what Watertown comes up with this year."

A photo of last year's winning household on Ward Street is attached. For more information and updates, residents are encouraged to follow Mayor Pierce's social media pages.









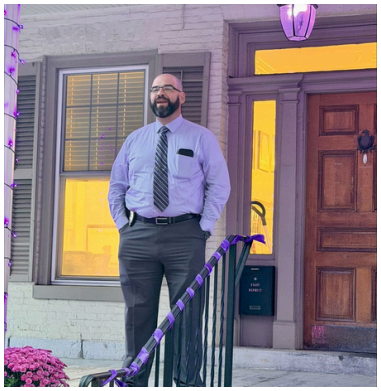
REGISTER NOW

TO REGISTER YOUR FLOAT FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARADE, EMAIL PARKSREC@WATERTOWN-NY.GOV OR CLICK HERE.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

On 10/01/26, Det. Lt. Joe Giaquinto spoke at the Victims Assistance Center alongside colleagues and community leaders to mark the beginning of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Watertown Police Department is committed to supporting victims and survivors of domestic violence. No one has to face domestic violence alone!





On 10/02/26, Det. Scott Freeman and Luna stopped by at Sherman Elementary School to read a book to 2nd and 3rd grade students. Thank you to Ms. Purvis and Ms. Wilson for welcoming us in!





On 10/07/26, our officers spent a couple hours enjoying a cup coffee and meaningful conversation with our great community at Stewart's at the corner of N. Massey Street and Coffeen Street during "Coffee with a Cop". Thank you, Stewart's for hosting! We love opportunities to collaborate with our community!







The City of Watertown is proud to welcome its newest police recruits!

On October 9, 2026, Councilmember Robert Kimball swore in the City's newest police department recruits as they begin their journey toward serving and protecting our community. We wish them the best of luck as they embark on 34 weeks of intensive training.

Congratulations, and best wishes for success in this next chapter!



FIRE DEPARTMENT

New Captain – On Thursday evening, the Fire Department officially swore in our newest officer, Captain Bjorn Ahlstrom! Captain Ahlstrom is a decorated 20-year veteran of the department who brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to his new role. Friends, family, and fellow firefighters joined us for the ceremony, helping pin on his new badge and celebrating this important milestone in his career. Congratulations, Captain Ahlstrom, on your well-deserved promotion!





Trick-or-Treat-or-Trucks – The Watertown Fire Department was pleased to participate in Flower Memorial Library's Trick-or-Treat-or-Trucks event! Our firefighters enjoyed the opportunity to show off some of our equipment, visit with families, and give the kids a chance to get an up-close look at a fire truck. Everyone had a great time—kids, parents, and firefighters alike! Thanks to the library for inviting us to participate. If you missed it this year, be sure to stop by next time!



Recruit Academy – Our recruits have been hard at work this week learning firefighter survival and rescue techniques. Much of their training took place in and around Fort Drum Fire Department's burn building, where they practiced rescuing downed firefighters, performing emergency window bailouts, and moving unconscious victims up and down stairways.
These are physically demanding skills that prepare firefighters for some of the most dangerous situations they may encounter on the job. The training emphasizes teamwork, problem-solving, and the ability to remain calm and effective under difficult conditions. Our recruits continue to make excellent progress as they work toward graduation and their assignments to the line.







Ground Ladder and Aerial Ladder Testing – You may have noticed quite a bit of activity outside our Massey Street Station this week! We have been conducting testing on the aerial devices mounted on our ladder trucks, as well as the portable ground ladders carried on our apparatus.

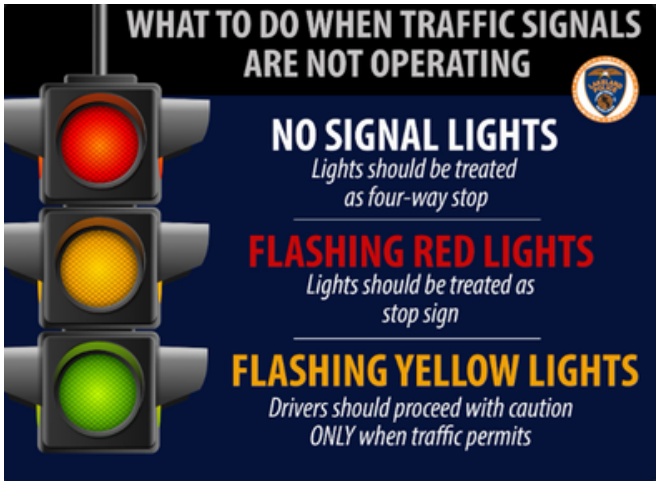
Firefighters depend on these ladders for everything from accessing upper floors and roofs to rescuing people trapped in burning buildings. Regular inspection and testing help identify damage, wear, or other problems before equipment is needed at an emergency. It's an important part of keeping our equipment in serviceable condition and ensuring our firefighters have the tools they need to do their jobs safely.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Electrical: Our Electrical Division played a critical role in supporting the Harvest Festival held at the Fairgrounds this past weekend. The crew provided essential electrical support for vendors and festival operations, helping ensure a safe and successful event.

More recently, the division responded to a power outage that disrupted critical City infrastructure. Thanks to the quick response and expertise of our electrical staff, all affected systems have been restored and are operating normally. Their dedication, technical knowledge, and ability to respond to both planned events and unexpected emergencies are invaluable to City operations.



Public Safety Reminder: During a power outage, traffic signals may become completely dark. Motorists are reminded that intersections with nonfunctioning traffic signals must be treated as four-way stops. Please use extra caution, come to a complete stop, and proceed only when it is safe to do so.

Roads: As the construction season begins to wind down, our Roads Division continues to work diligently to complete remaining paving projects and address sidewalk damage throughout the City. Crews are also performing routine street sweeping and maintenance.

At the same time, the division is transitioning into winter operations. This includes preparing seasonal equipment for storage while inspecting, servicing, and readying snow removal equipment for the upcoming winter season. These efforts are essential to ensuring the DPW is prepared to respond efficiently and effectively when winter weather arrives.

Volunteer: Tree Watertown would like to invite you to our annual Fall Volunteer Planting on November 7th, 2026, at 9AM. This year, we will be planting 55 trees at Marble St. Park, and on Marble and Water Streets by Hale's Garage (1067 Marble St.). Refreshments will be provided.



The trees and supplies will be funded through a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. If you have questions about the planting, please contact Dan VanKouwenberg at dvankouwenberg@watertown-ny.gov or treewatertown@gmail.com

Community Support: DPW staff took time out of their busy schedules to participate in the Flower Memorial Library's Halloween Touch-a-Truck event. This event provided a wonderful opportunity for children and families to get an up-close look at City equipment, explore our fleet, and learn more about the important services provided by the Department of Public Works.

Events like these allow our crews to connect with the community, showcase the diverse work performed by DPW, and inspire the next generation of public works professionals. A special thank you to our dedicated staff who volunteered their time to make this event a success!





Building & Grounds/ Foresty: Our Forestry Division continues to stay busy with seasonal tree maintenance and hazardous tree removals throughout the City. The grapple truck is an especially valuable piece of equipment this time of year, allowing crews to efficiently collect and remove large piles of brush, tree limbs, and sections of trees.

Crews are also actively removing hazardous trees that have been previously identified and marked by City staff. These operations require careful planning, coordination, and the use of specialized equipment, including bucket trucks and the grapple truck. Our Forestry crews work together to complete these challenging tasks safely and efficiently.





WATER FILTRATION PLANT RESTORED TO FULL CAPACITY FOLLOWING POWER OUTAGE

On October 7, 2026, shortly after 3:20 p.m., the City's Water Filtration Plant experienced a power outage. The operator on duty promptly activated the emergency generator, allowing the facility to continue supplying water to City residents and businesses.

Shortly after the plant resumed operations, an issue developed with the generator, prompting the operator to contact maintenance personnel. Utility power was restored shortly thereafter, allowing the plant to return to normal power.

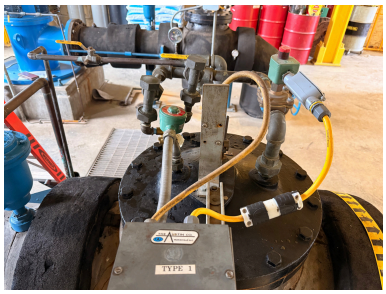
During the restart process, the operator discovered that the plant was unable to operate at full capacity and immediately notified maintenance staff. An investigation revealed that an apparent electrical surge, occurring during generator startup or the restoration of utility power, had affected High Lift Pump No. 3. The incident caused the pump's motor to seize and damaged a solenoid responsible for valve operation.

Maintenance personnel secured the affected equipment and bypassed the damaged solenoid to close the valve, preventing backflow from the other high lift pumps that remained in operation. High Lift Pump No. 3 was taken offline until repairs could be completed.

On October 8, maintenance personnel successfully freed the motor and rebuilt the damaged solenoid, returning High Lift Pump No. 3 to service and restoring the plant to full operational capacity.

The prompt response of the operator on duty and the dedicated efforts of the maintenance team helped maintain water service to City residents and businesses throughout the incident. Their coordinated response minimized operational impacts and allowed the facility to return to full capacity without an extended disruption.









PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

RFP #2026-11 Lease and Operation of Thompson Park Golf Course – Deadline 10/13/26

The City of Watertown is seeking sealed proposals from operators to lease and operate an 18-hole golf course and clubhouse located within Thompson Park. The operator shall provide all labor, materials, services, and equipment necessary to maintain and operate a fully functional golf course. Please use the link for additional information: https://prod3.evo.cloud/watertownny/portal/bids/558/

Bid #2026-20 Contracted Hauling Services - Deadline 10/22/26

The City of Watertown is seeking sealed bids from qualified bidders to provide hauling services to move a variety of materials to and from work sites and/or specified material supplies for City Departments. Please use the link for additional information: https://prod3.evo.cloud/watertownny/portal/bids/562/

Bid #2026-21 : Portable Forensic Photography System – Cortexflo Portable 2.0 or Equivalent - Deadline 10/22/26

The City of Watertown is seeking sealed bids from qualified bidders for purchase, delivery, and training of a Portable Forensic Photography System – Cortexflo Portable 2.0 or Equivalent, per departmental specifications for use by the City's Police Department. Please use the link for additional information: https://prod3.evo.cloud/watertownny/portal/bids/566/

Bid #2026-19 Hydro Facility Headwater Level PLC Control Modernization Phase 2 - Build and Installation Contract - Deadline 11/4/26

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 Tie-In point, and the bypass sensor wiring and mounting. This project has multiple locations for the various jobs. Please use the link for additional information: https://prod3.evo.cloud/watertownny/portal/bids/564/

Please visit our website at City of Watertown - Purchasing Department for all Bid/RFP opportunities. 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.



PARKS AND RECREATION

Northern Credit Union Community Arena:

Public Skate: Daily skating is available at the Northern Credit Union Community Arena. Please visit the following website for up-to-date schedules:

🔗https://www.watertown-ny.gov/departments/ParksandRecreation/arena
🔗https://www.facebook.com/WatertownParksandRecreation

JCC Hockey: The Cannoneers next home game is scheduled for Sunday, December 7th at 7:00 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/2026-27/schedule

Watertown Wolves Hockey:

Upcoming Watertown Wolves Games:

Friday, October 16
Saturday, October 17
Friday, October 23
Saturday, October 24

For a full schedule, visit www.watertownwolves.net

Other Parks and Recreation News:

Golf Course: The Watertown High School golf team seen hitting the driving range on October 6th in preparation for their sectional match!



Harvest Festival: This year's Harvest Festival was a great success, with fantastic fall weather and a great turnout! The event featured carnival rides, live music, a Volksmarch, a variety of vendors, a free movie night, a biergarten, and plenty of great food. There was something for everyone to enjoy!

Many thanks to all the organizations and city departments who contributed their time and effort to help make this year's event such a success.

As we look ahead to next year, new events and activities are already being planned. We look forward to growing and expanding Harvest Festival and making it an even bigger and better community event!





Club Vortex: Club Vortex is back!

Kids ages 6–11 meet twice a week to stay active, have fun, and enjoy the trails of Thompson Park. A big thank you to the Watertown Cross Country Team for leading this fun fall program and helping our young runners stay active and connected to the outdoors! We're excited to have Club Vortex back for another great season!



FLOWER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Friends of THE FLOWER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

ANNUAL BOOK SALE 2026

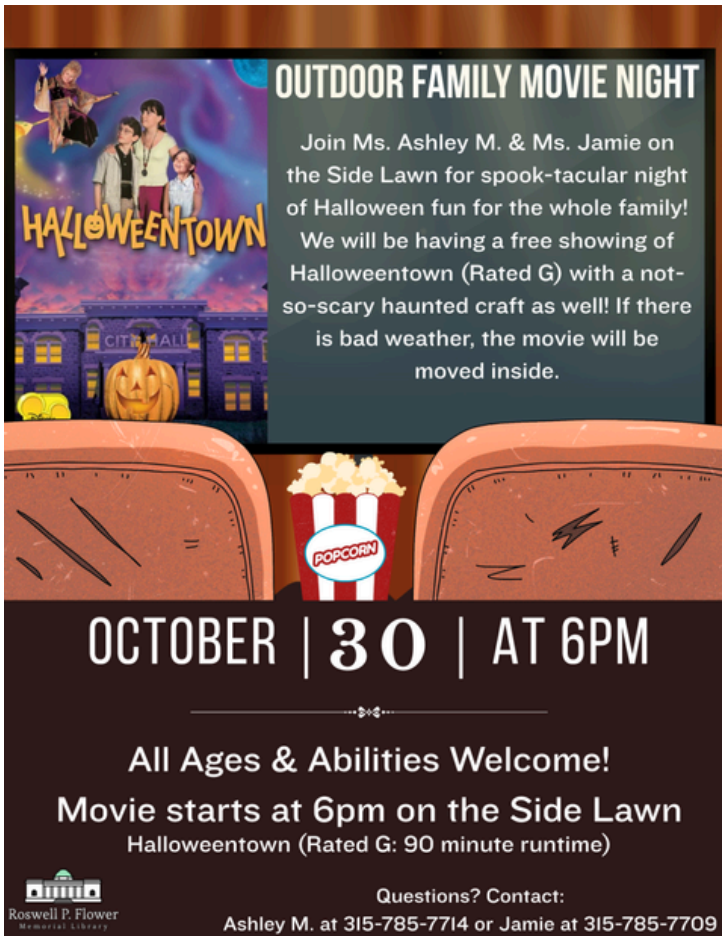
Flower Memorial Library
229 Washington St, Watertown, NY

Preview Night
Friday October 16
6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Open to members of The Friends of the Flower Memorial Library. Become a "Friends" member today! Sign up at the circulation desk, at the door on preview night or online at www.flowerlibrary.org.

Saturday October 17
through
Monday October 26
All hours the library is open

Bag Sale Begins
Friday October 23







WELCOME TO THE CITY OF WATERTOWN

Whether you are a new resident, visitor, or long-time neighbor, we've put together everything you need to know about living, working, and thriving in Watertown in our comprehensive digital Welcome Packet.

WHAT'S INSIDE THE ONLINE PACKET?

- City Services & Utilities: Garbage collection, water/sewer details, and local contacts
- Parks & Recreation: Local parks, splash pads, seasonal sports, and event schedules
- Community Resources: Library services, public transportation, and city department directories
- Civic Engagement: How to get involved, City Hall updates, and public meeting schedules

HOW TO ACCESS THE WELCOME PACKET:

- **Scan the QR Code: Point your smartphone camera at the code to open the packet instantly.**
- **Visit Online: Go to watertown-ny.gov and click on Welcome to the City of Watertown**

SCAN HERE

The online version is recommended for the best access to materials; however, paper copies are available at City Hall.









ALL ROADS LEAD TO WATERTOWN

KEEP WATERTOWN CLEAN & GREEN!



CITY OF WATERTOWN NY

REFUSE SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

- WEEKLY REFUSE PICKUP
- WEEKLY RECYCLING INCLUDED
- CONVENIENT OPTIONS FOR EVERY HOUSEHOLD

SCAN HERE

315-785-7842

WWW.WATERTOWN-NY.GOV/REFUSERECYCLING