NOVEMBER 6, 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.





WE'RE HIRING!

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 November 2nd, 2026, City Council Meeting:

City Council Meeting Minutes

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

- Monday, November 16, 2026
- Monday, December 7, 2026

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

- Monday, November 9, 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

Stay Connected with the City of Watertown

Follow the City of Watertown on Facebook and Instagram for City news, service updates, upcoming events, and a behind-the-scenes look at the people and projects serving our community.

See what's happening around the City. From everyday services to community celebrations, we're sharing the stories that make Watertown our home. Join us and help keep your neighbors informed by sharing updates they may find helpful.

The City's website remains the official source for City information.

Social Media Policy

The City's Social Media Policy explains how its official accounts are managed and used to share information with the public. View the City's Social Media Policy

The City of Watertown NY

CityOfWatertownNY

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE UPDATE

The City Manager's Office has been working on several initiatives to improve communication, support City operations, and keep residents informed about what is happening throughout our community.

Connecting with Our Community
We have been working to establish the City of Watertown's official social media presence. Be sure to follow our page for important City updates, announcements, and helpful information. We also look forward to sharing a behind-the-scenes look at the work happening throughout our departments and highlighting what it really takes to keep our City running!

City Public Records Requests
New York's Freedom of Information Law, commonly known as FOIL, gives the public the right to request access to government records. These requests help residents learn more about City operations, spending, and decisions.

The City has received 427 FOIL requests so far this year, with 80 requests currently open. The City takes these requests seriously and is committed to transparency, respecting the public's right to access records, and processing each request in accordance with all applicable FOIL requirements.

Responding involves more than locating and sending a document. Depending on the request, staff may need to gather records from multiple departments, search emails and files, review the information, and prepare records for release. A single request can involve numerous documents and coordination among several employees.

Some requests can be handled quickly, while others require substantial time and review. Staff carry out this work alongside their other daily responsibilities. Sharing these updates helps residents understand the volume of requests and the staff effort that goes into providing access to City records.

City Clerk and Personnel Updates
Our City Clerk is scheduled to retire on December 4, and the City is seeking interested City residents who may wish to be considered for the position. Residents interested in the opportunity are encouraged to review the information and application details available on the City's website. Qualified candidates will be presented to City Council for consideration and interviews.

Additionally, interviews for the Superintendent of Public Works position are currently being scheduled.

Upcoming Holiday Closures
As we approach the holiday season, please be aware that City Hall and City departments will be closed on the following dates:

November 11 – Veterans Day
November 26 – Thanksgiving Day
November 27 – Day After Thanksgiving

Winter Parking Reminder
As we enter the winter season, residents are reminded that winter parking restrictions are in effect from November 1 through April 30. On-street parking is prohibited between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Residents are also strongly encouraged to avoid parking on City streets at any time during snowfall events. Vehicles parked along roadways can delay snow removal operations, make it difficult for plow operators to safely clear streets, and create hazardous conditions.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support as we work to keep Watertown running smoothly throughout the winter months!

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE CITY



The 43rd Annual Watertown Family YMCA Turkey Day Run takes place on Thanksgiving morning, Thursday, November 26, 2026, at 9:00 AM. The race kicks off at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Ives Street Road in Watertown, NY, offering both a 5K run and a 2.2-mile run/walk.



The 2026 A North Country Festival of Trees in Watertown, NY, will run from Black Friday, November 27th through Sunday, December 6th, 2026. Co-hosted by the Watertown Family YMCA and the Samaritan Medical Center Foundation, this cherished holiday tradition raises crucial funds for youth programs and regional healthcare services.

Location: Held downtown at the Dulles State Office Building, located at 317 Washington Street, Watertown, NY 13601.

2026 Theme: “A Christmas Carol: Dickens of a Christmas”. Beautifully decorated holiday trees and wreaths designed by local creators will fill the space to match this classic literary theme.

Public Viewing Hours: The public is invited to view the displays and participate in the silent auction weekly from Thursday through Sunday, typically between 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM (closing at 2:00 PM on the final Sunday, December 6th).



REGISTER NOW

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

October was a busy month! Our officers enjoyed participating in several Trunk or Treat events and spending time with some of our favorite city residents--our kiddos! Thanks to all the organizations who hosted the events and all the families who came out and made them so much fun!







Meanwhile, recruits at the Black River/St. Lawrence Valley Police Academy wrapped up their firearms training during week 4. This is a demanding week for the recruits, with firearms instruction, use of force training, and lots of physical training. Great work to our instructors and recruits!







DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Electrical
Electrical crews continue to upgrade lighting throughout City facilities, improving visibility, safety, and overall efficiency.



The Department of Public Works would also like to recognize and congratulate Mr. Weller on his retirement after more than 30 years of dedicated service to the City of Watertown. As he prepares for retirement, Mr. Weller continues to share his knowledge and experience by training new employees, helping ensure a smooth transition for the next generation of City workers. We sincerely thank him for his years of commitment, hard work, and service to our community, and wish him all the best in retirement.



Sewer and Storm
Following an inspection, crews identified damage to an existing laid-up stone culvert that required emergency repairs. This culvert serves as a critical component of the City's stormwater management system, helping to safely convey stormwater and protect surrounding infrastructure. Crews worked to address the damage and maintain the integrity of this essential drainage system, highlighting the importance of continued infrastructure inspections and proactive maintenance.





Training

As part of our preparations for the upcoming winter season, DPW crews participated in hands-on snowplow training. A designated driving course was established to allow operators to practice maneuvering and operating plow equipment in a controlled environment, free from winter weather conditions and roadway distractions. This training serves as a valuable refresher for experienced operators while providing newer employees with an opportunity to build confidence and sharpen their skills. These proactive training efforts help ensure our crews are prepared to operate safely and efficiently when winter weather arrives.





Building & Grounds/ Foresty

Forestry crews continue tree-trimming operations along Massey Street near the outskirts of the City. This work requires careful coordination and attention to safety, particularly when working near overhead utility lines. Crews also maintained appropriate traffic control measures to protect both workers and motorists throughout the operation. These efforts help maintain roadway clearance, reduce potential hazards, and improve overall safety along this corridor.

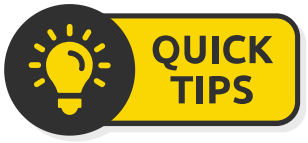


Refuse

Refuse crews continue to wash and maintain collection totes as part of routine equipment care and maintenance. These efforts help preserve City assets, extend the useful life of the totes, and ensure they remain clean and in good condition for residents. Proper maintenance of these assets supports efficient refuse collection operations and responsible stewardship of City resources.



Winter Guidance



Preparing for the 2026–2027 Winter Snow Removal Season

As the winter season approaches, the City of Watertown Department of Public Works (DPW) would like to remind residents of several important winter maintenance practices that help keep our community safe and our streets accessible.

Each winter, DPW crews work diligently to maintain safe travel conditions throughout the City. Snow and ice removal operations require coordination, patience, and cooperation from residents. By following a few simple guidelines, we can work together to improve safety and efficiency during winter weather events.

Winter Parking Regulations

- The City's winter parking restrictions are in effect from November 1 through April 30, prohibiting on-street parking between 2:00 AM and 6:00 AM.
- Residents are also strongly encouraged to avoid parking on City streets during snowfall, regardless of the time of day. Vehicles parked along roadways can significantly delay snow removal operations and create hazards for plow operators.

Snow Removal Operations

- DPW crews prioritize main travel routes, followed by secondary roads and residential streets. During significant snowfall, crews may make multiple passes to keep roads accessible before completing final cleanup operations.
- Under typical conditions, clearing the entire City can take approximately eight hours after snowfall ends. However, this timeframe may vary depending on storm intensity, snowfall accumulation, and operational conditions.
- Residents are reminded that snowplows will deposit snow at the ends of driveways as they clear the roadway. While this can be frustrating, it is an unavoidable part of winter maintenance.

Driveway and Private Snow Removal

- Residents can help reduce snow accumulation at the end of their driveways by placing shoveled snow to the right side of the driveway when facing the street
- Pushing, blowing, or depositing snow into or across public streets is prohibited and creates dangerous conditions for motorists and DPW crews. Residents who hire private snow removal contractors should ensure these requirements are followed.

Sidewalk Maintenance and Accessibility

- Property owners are responsible for clearing snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their properties in accordance with City Code.
- Maintaining clear sidewalks is essential for pedestrian safety, particularly for schoolchildren, older residents, and individuals with mobility challenges.

Refuse and Recycling Collection

- On scheduled collection days, residents should place refuse and recycling totes behind the curb or roadway edge on the margin, ensuring they remain accessible to collection crews without interfering with snow removal equipment.
- Please avoid placing totes in the roadway or on top of snowbanks and promptly remove them following collection.

Additional Winter Safety Reminders

- Keep children away from roadside snowbanks and never allow snow forts or tunnels to be constructed near roadways.
- Remove basketball hoops, portable signs, toys, and other obstacles from the roadway and curbside areas.
- Maintain a safe distance behind snowplows and never attempt to pass equipment actively clearing snow.
- Exercise additional caution near intersections, where snowbanks may limit visibility.

Working Together for a Safer Winter

The City of Watertown DPW appreciates the patience and cooperation of our residents throughout the winter season. Our crews remain committed to providing safe and efficient winter maintenance services, often working long hours in challenging weather conditions.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

HUD Regional Grantee Meeting - September 22, 2026

On September 22, 2026, Senior Planner Geoffrey Urda attended a meeting at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Buffalo Field Office for regional HUD program grantees. Watertown is an entitlement community under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, typically receiving $800,000 to $900,000 annually.

HUD staff discussed federal funding integrity, compliance strategies, timely spending, environmental reviews, and online reporting. The meeting also highlighted examples of HUD-supported projects in other communities.

Interest From the City of Plattsburgh

The City of Watertown's Adopt-A-Spot program recently attracted interest from the City of Plattsburgh, New York. Plattsburgh representatives met with Planning Department staff to learn about the program's structure and adoption process.



Representatives were particularly interested in Watertown's approach, which allows residents to adopt individual locations rather than entire parks. This flexibility distinguishes the program from similar initiatives in other municipalities.

Residents and organizations can view available locations and program information at:

watertown-ny.gov/departments/PlanningandZoning/AdoptASpotProgram

ASSESSMENT DEPARTMENT

REMINDER: Taxable status date for the City of Watertown is December 1st, 2026. All exemptions must be submitted to the assessment office on or before December 1st. No last submissions will be accepted due to state laws.

The assessment office is in the process of completing field work. If you see someone in your area with a safety vest and you have concerns, please feel free to say hi and ask questions.

MOBILE PAY IS HERE!
Download. Purchase. Scan & Go!

Beginning Monday, **November 9, 2026**, CitiBus passengers have a new, convenient way to pay fares using the MyCitiBus mobile app! Purchase fares and passes right from your smartphone, then scan your mobile fare at the validator when boarding.

HOW TO GET STARTED

1. Download MyCitiBus from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.
2. Create an account and purchase your fare or pass.
3. Scan your mobile fare at the validator on the bus and go!

IMPORTANT FOR HALF-FARE & PARATRANSIT CUSTOMERS

Half-fare customers: Call CitiBus before purchasing so your reduced-fare eligibility can be added to your account.
Paratransit customers: Call CitiBus before purchasing to have your account properly set up. Cash and traditional fare payment options will still be accepted.

Questions or need assistance? Call CitiBus at 315-785-7772.

iPhone / Apple App store



Look for this app icon

Android / Google Play

WATER DEPARTMENT

The Pollution Control Facility welcomed approximately 10 Jefferson Community College geology students for a tour connecting classroom concepts with everyday water treatment operations. Students saw how the science they are studying helps protect public health and the environment.





A new gearbox was installed on a screening unit at the Pollution Control Facility. Our maintenance crew worked alongside the manufacturer, gaining hands on training to perform future replacements in-house reducing downtime and cost. (Pictured right)

Our Maintenance crew completed a temporary repair to a building at the treatment plant protecting infrastructure while a permanent repair is planned. (Pictured below)



Liam Martin, a General Brown student, joined our maintenance crew for a day of job shadowing to fulfill a school curriculum requirement. He chose to shadow his dad (Derek Martin), gaining a firsthand look at the skills and teamwork that keep essential City services running. (Pictured to the right)







New barriers were installed around the biosolids storage area to strengthen containment and prepare for winter weather and spring snowmelt.

A new upper shaft was installed on Trickling Filter Lift Pump No. 3 to support reliable treatment operations. This pump lifts water to the top of the trickling filter, where it flows over surfaces covered with helpful microorganisms that break down pollutants and clean the water.

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, November 22nd 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, November 6
Saturday, November 7
Wednesday, November 11
Friday, November 20
Saturday, November 21

For a full schedule visit www.watertownwolves.net

Golf Course
Parks & Recreation crews have been busy preparing Thompson Park Golf Course for winter. Work includes de-thatching greens, brush hogging overgrown areas, cleaning and storing golf carts, and winterizing. These seasonal maintenance efforts help protect the course and equipment while ensuring everything is ready for spring.



PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

RFP #2026-12 Legal Services (ERPO & Police Codes) – Deadline 11/19/26
The City of Watertown is seeking sealed proposals from qualified attorneys or law firms to provide legal services related to Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) matters and Municipal code and ordinance violations prosecution and related legal services on behalf of the City and/or the Watertown Police Department. Please use the link below for additional information: https://prod3.evo.cloud/watertownny/portal/bids/568/

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.

FLOWER MEMORIAL LIBRARY



BEST OUTREACH & COMMUNITY PROGRAM AWARD

Presented by the
North Country Library System
to

Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library

Suzie Renzi-Falge, Director

NORTH COUNTRY LIBRARY SYSTEM

For outstanding outreach and community engagement programs that expand library access, build meaningful community partnerships, and connect diverse populations with resources, services, and opportunities that enrich lives and strengthen communities. This award is hereby presented on behalf of the North Country Library System on the 13th day of October, 2026.

Signed Paulette Roes

Paulette Roes, Executive Director

UNEARTH A STORY WITH ROSWELL!

SUMMER READING 2026

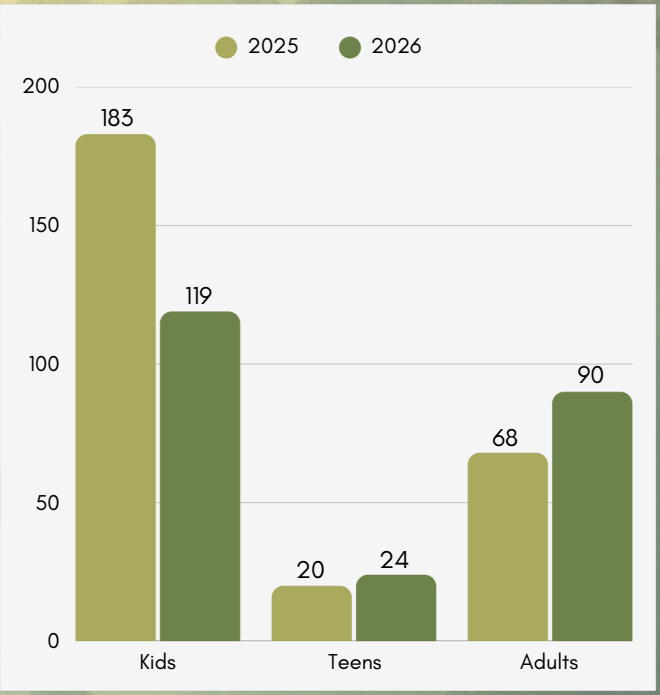
This year's Summer Reading Program, "Unearth a Story with Roswell," is definitely one for the books!

Children's participation decreased this year, but those who participated made a tremendous impact, contributing nearly 3,000 more hours read than last year. Our teen program welcomed 4 more participants, while adults welcomed an impressive 22 more participants. Although we had 38 fewer participants overall than last year, our 2026 participants still read 15,255 hours together. What a fantastic accomplishment!

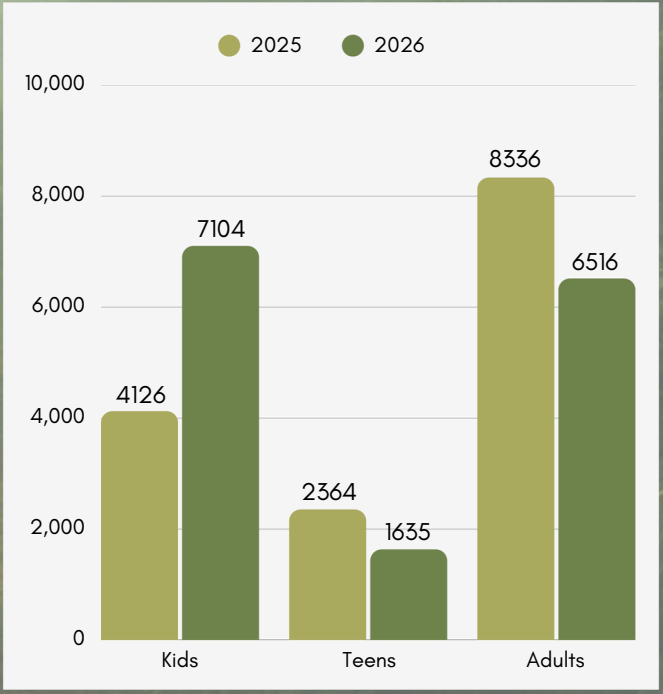
This summer also presented some unexpected challenges, including staffing cuts that required us to adjust schedules and make difficult decisions about programs and outreach opportunities. As a result, we had to cancel or modify some planned programs and outreaches, and I wasn't able to promote the Summer Reading Program as widely or as consistently as I had originally hoped.

Despite those challenges, I'm incredibly proud of what we were able to accomplish. The fact that our participants read more hours overall, even with fewer participants and fewer opportunities for promotion, is something worth celebrating. I'm excited to build on this year's successes and use what we learned to make next summer's program even stronger. With more opportunities for promotion and outreach, I'm hopeful we can reach even more readers and continue growing the program in the years ahead.

TOTALPARTICIPANTS AGE GROUP



TOTAL HOURS READ BY AGE GROUP





Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library

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