

# INSIGHT

## 2023

City of Watertown  
Annual Report



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# 2023 ALDERS

# LEADERSHIP TEAM

## **DISTRICT 1**

Ald. Dana Davis

## **DISTRICT 2**

Ald. Jon Lampe

## **DISTRICT 3**

Ald. Steve Board

## **DISTRICT 4**

Ald. Dan Bartz

## **DISTRICT 5**

Ald. Brad Blanke

## **DISTRICT 6**

Ald. Fred Smith

## **DISTRICT 7**

Ald. Eric Schmid

## **DISTRICT 8**

Ald. Bob Wetzel

## **DISTRICT 9**

Ald. Myron Moldenhauer

## **DPW - BUILDING, SAFETY, AND ZONING**

Brian Zirbes

## **DPW - ENGINEERING**

Jaynellen Holloway/Andrew Beyer

## **DPW - STREETS AND SOLID WASTE**

Stacy Winkelman

## **DPW - WATER SYSTEMS**

Peter Hartz

## **PARKS, RECREATION, & FORESTRY**

Kristine Butteris

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Travis Teesch

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Robert Kaminski/Dave Brower

## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Carol Quest

## **LIBRARY**

Peg Checkai

## **MEDIA PRODUCTIONS**

Lisa Famularo

## **FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

Mark Stevens

## **ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT**

Emily McFarland, Mayor

## **CITY ATTORNEY**

Steven Chesebro

Dear Community Friends and Neighbors,

I am proud to present to you the Insight Annual Report for 2023. It is with great pride that I share these highlights, showcasing our collective efforts towards progress and prosperity.

One of the most monumental achievements of the past year was the inauguration of the Bentzin Family Town Square in May. After a decade of planning, this vibrant space became a focal point for our town, hosting 36 events throughout the summer, with an impressive total of 7,200 attendees.

Our community saw growth and development in 2023, evidenced by over \$2.3 million in residential property improvements and \$9.7 million in commercial property enhancements. These investments reflect the confidence and commitment of our residents and businesses towards building a thriving future for Watertown.

In addition to infrastructure improvements, critical rehabilitation work was successfully completed on the Cady Street bridge, laying the groundwork for the replacement of the Main Street (Cole) Bridge in 2024. This proactive approach ensures the safety and accessibility of vital transportation routes for years to come, and the continued prosperity and vibrancy of our Main Street businesses.

Furthermore, Watertown Public Library continues to be a beacon of knowledge and enrichment for all ages. In 2023, the total circulation of physical materials reached an impressive 286,748, with a significant portion dedicated to children's materials, totaling 150,232 items. This underscores our dedication to fostering a culture of lifelong learning and literacy within our community.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2023, let us embrace the opportunities that lie ahead with optimism and enthusiasm. I am confident that we will make 2024 an even better year for Watertown. Together, we will continue to build a vibrant community that we can all be proud to call home.

With Warm Regards,



EMILY MCFARLAND, MAYOR

# A WORD FROM YOUR MAYOR



**“As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2023, let us embrace the opportunities that lie ahead with optimism and enthusiasm.”**

# DPW-BUILDING, SAFETY & ZONING

## Specific Projects

- Griffin Armament Addition
- Glory Global Renovation
- Culvers Renovation
- MATC Renovation/Addition
- Self-storage Buildings on N. Church St.
- Toppers Pizza
- Aggregate Storage Facility
- Batch Plant Alteration and Addition



Over \$9.7 million in commercial property improvements

Processed 215 new code enforcement files



Over \$2.3 million in residential property improvements

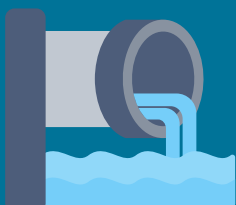


## DPW- ENGINEERING

Reconstructed the north end of Water Tower Ct. including a new stormwater biofilter system

Cleaned and televised over 40,000 linear feet of storm sewer pipe

Permeable pavement stormwater treatment system constructed as part of the Senior Center Parking Lot Project



3.5 miles of roadway construction and maintenance work completed



Critical rehabilitation work completed on the Cady Street bridge





# DPW-STREET & SOLID WASTE



Curbside collection of 2,767 tons of recycling



Curbside collection of 5,338 tons of garbage and solid waste



14 salting operations for snow and ice control

4 plowing operations for snow and ice control

## Construction Projects



- Senior Center Parking lot reconstruction
- Mill, overlay, & storm sewer work on city roads
- curb replacement & new cross walk ramps on N 4th St.
- Assisted in the construction of Refection Park
- Repaired 57 manholes and inlets
- Dug and prepped 28 water main breaks and patches

# DPW-WATER SYSTEMS



### Water:

- Replaced 104 private lead services
- Replaced 6,215 feet of vintage watermain
- Added 1,150 feet of new watermain for future development on West Main Street
- Rehabilitated city drinking water well #4



### Wastewater

- Added 1,150 feet of new sanitary sewer for future development on West Main Street
- Rehabilitated 622 feet of undersized sanitary sewer on West Main Street
- Installed the new emergency generator for the Spaulding Lift Station area
- Began the wastewater treatment plant facilities needs evaluation



# PARK, RECREATION, & FORESTRY



**Senior and Community Center**

- 758 members with 126 new members
- 15 enrichment programs totaling over 300 individual and family participants



**Rentals/Programs**

- 23,539 total attendees at rentals & programs administered by Park and Recreation
- 32 community programs with 10,000+ attendees



**Bentzin Family Town Square**

- Grand opening held May 20th
- 36 events with 7,200 attendees



**Aquatics**

- Attendance 20,724
- Sold 375 (individual and family) passes for the year.
- 72 aquatic programs with 882 participants



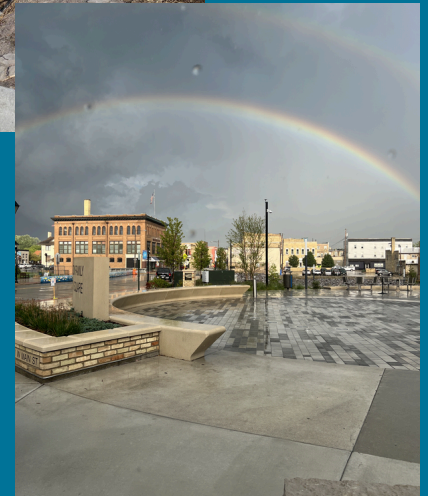
**Park Division**

- Maintained 330 acres of parks in the city
- Reflection Park, a greenspace renovation was completed in August
- Bentzin Family Town Square event props and maintenance



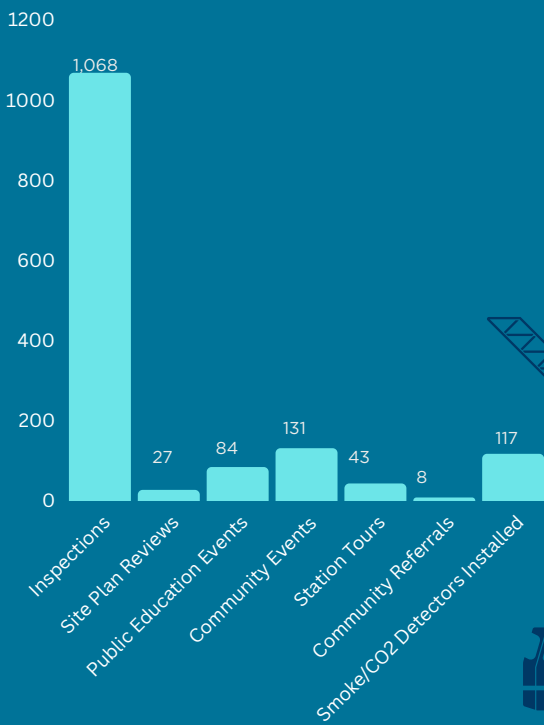
**Forestry Division**

- Removed, planted, pruned city trees and cleaned up tree/branch storm damage
- 154 total trees planted and 59 in the Tree Planting Program



# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH



- Mobil Data Terminal's were placed in the apparatus. This device allows the call information to be right in front of the crew when they are responding to a call.
- Purchased new extrication equipment
- Lockboxes securely installed in the apparatus that provide emergency access to commercial and residential properties.

An increase of 750 calls from 2013 to 2023



557 (18% of total) simultaneous calls

Responded to 3,027 calls for fire and EMS service



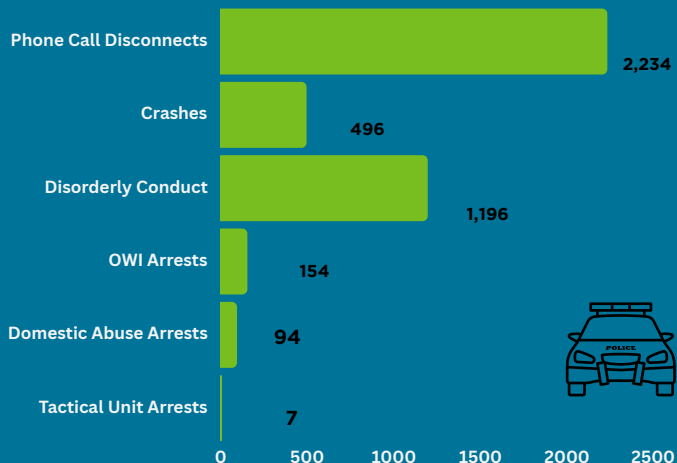
# POLICE DEPARTMENT



There were 3 retirements, 5 resignations, 6 promotions, and 11 new hires within the department

- 18 DARE classes with 350 students
- Hosted the Bicycle Rodeo, Donut Dash, Lights and Sirens, Shop with a Cop, Citizen Police Academy
- Implemented the Cellebrite software (downloads information from cell phones and computers when evidence is needed from them) with help from the Watertown Health Foundation

## 19,393 TOTAL SERVICE CALLS



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**176 pounds of produce came from the community garden**



Held three engagement events at the library for expecting or families with young children



28 Pack and Plays purchased with a grant from Walmart



40 car seats dispensed and 78 car seat checks



1264 lbs. of sharps collected and disposed of

Instituted online credit card payment option for licensed facilities to make it easier to pay for licenses and inspections.





# PUBLIC LIBRARY

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten finishers



Completed donor recognition areas such as the outside paver area, the 100 extraordinary women display in the Main St. hallway, and the donor wall by the south library entrance



47,543 e-books, e-audio, and e-video were accessed.

Total circulation of physical materials was 286,748; 150,232 of those items were children's materials

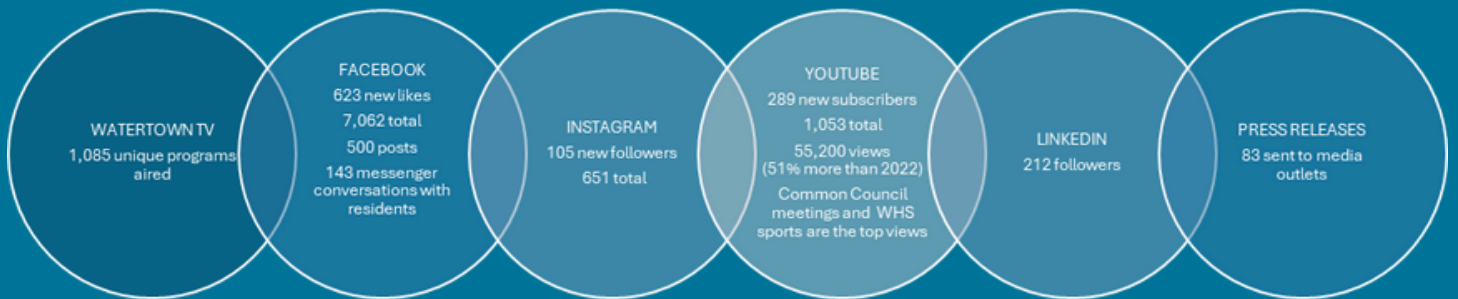
Loaned 24,144 items to other libraries

Borrowed 42,424 items from other libraries

Outdoor signage was added on the west, south, and north sides of the building



# MEDIA PRODUCTIONS



**City Website**  
96,852 users  
(301,003 total views)  
**Top 5 pages were**  
Home page (67,515)  
Aquatics (14, 026)  
Parks/Rec/Forestry (12,602)  
Solid Waste and Recycling (9,986)  
Police Department (6,883)



# FINANCE DEPARTMENT



Updated the City of Watertown purchasing policy

Moved departments needing credit card transaction readers to one merchant processor



Budget process added a personnel additions request procedure as a preliminary building block for budget creation



Full implementation of Badger Books for elections

27.7% of registered voters in the city voted in the February election

51.5% of registered voters in the city voted in the April election

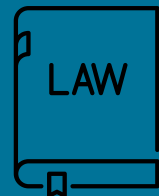
# ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT & CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



191 full-time employees in 13 departments

65 part-time crossing guards, library staff, & election workers

146 seasonal staff for indoor/outdoor pools, parks, and recreation



Opened 378 citations and closed out 406 citations, 36 of them were OWI

Harassment Training was completed for all city departments

After a decade of planning, the **Bentzin Family Town Square** opened.

Reopened the **RDA Revolving Loan Fund**. This helps downtown building owners update and repair their buildings.

The **Beltz Foundation Downtown Watertown Grant Program** launched in summer. This is a three-year program that helps businesses relocate or expand in the downtown area.

Currently, eleven housing development projects are in the works in the city.





# 2023

