

INSIGHT

2025

City of Watertown
Annual Report



**2 A WORD FROM THE
MAYOR**

**3-4 DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS**

**5 PARKS,
RECREATION, &
FORESTRY**

5 FIRE DEPARTMENT

**6 POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

**6 DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH**

7 LIBRARY

**7 MEDIA
PRODUCTIONS**

**8 FINANCE
DEPARTMENT**

**8 ADMINISTRATION/
CITY ATTORNEY**



2025 ALDERS

LEADERSHIP TEAM

DISTRICT 1

Ald. Dana Davis

DISTRICT 2

Ald. Jon Lampe

DISTRICT 3

Ald. Ken Berg

DISTRICT 4

Ald. Dan Bartz

DISTRICT 5

Ald. Brad Blanke

DISTRICT 6

Ald. Fred Smith

DISTRICT 7

Ald. Tony Arnett

DISTRICT 8

Ald. Bob Wetzel

DISTRICT 9

Ald. Myron Moldenhauer

DPW - BUILDING, SAFETY, AND ZONING

Brian Zirbes

DPW - ENGINEERING

Andrew Beyer

DPW - STREETS AND SOLID WASTE

Stacy Winkelman

DPW - WATER SYSTEMS

Peter Hartz

PARKS, RECREATION, & FORESTRY

Kristine Butteris

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Tanya Reynen

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dave Brower

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Carol Quest

LIBRARY

Peg Checkai

MEDIA PRODUCTIONS

Lisa Famularo

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Mark Stevens

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Emily McFarland/Robert Stocks

CITY ATTORNEY

Steven Chesebro/Ali Panagopoulos

As I look back on 2025, I am very proud of the progress we have made together as a community. This year marked new beginnings and significant milestones for the City of Watertown, and I am honored to serve as your mayor during such an important time.

In April, I had the privilege of taking office as Mayor. I stepped into this role with a commitment to collaboration, responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars, and thoughtful growth that protects what makes Watertown special. That same month, we celebrated the completion and reopening of the Main Street Bridge.

A major achievement this year was the completion of our new fire station. Watching our Fire Department move into a modern facility designed to support their lifesaving work was a proud moment for our City. The open house in June was a powerful reminder of how deeply our residents value and support public safety. Over 1,000 of you joined us on that day to celebrate!

We added more than \$20.5 million in residential property improvements and saw over \$15 million in commercial property investments over the past year. The Rock River Ridge development is well underway, and more housing is coming to Watertown in 2026! I am excited to see new homes of all types being built in Watertown, giving residents options for housing, no matter what phase of life they are in.

We also honored our nation's heroes with the installation of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall at Aero Park, the only permanent installation of its kind in the Midwest north of St. Louis. This meaningful tribute provides a place for remembrance, reflection, and gratitude.

All of these wonderful accomplishments have been supported by our city staff, appointed committee members, and elected officials. Their professionalism and commitment to serving our residents are the foundation of everything we accomplish. I am equally grateful to the residents and business owners who choose Watertown. Thank you for your desire to invest here, participate in community life, and make this City your home.

The year ahead holds so much promise. I am excited about the continued growth, opportunity, and momentum we will build together in 2026 and beyond.



ROBERT STOCKS, MAYOR

A WORD FROM YOUR MAYOR



"We look forward to witnessing the city's continued progress and development in the years ahead."

DPW-BUILDING, SAFETY & ZONING



Notable Projects

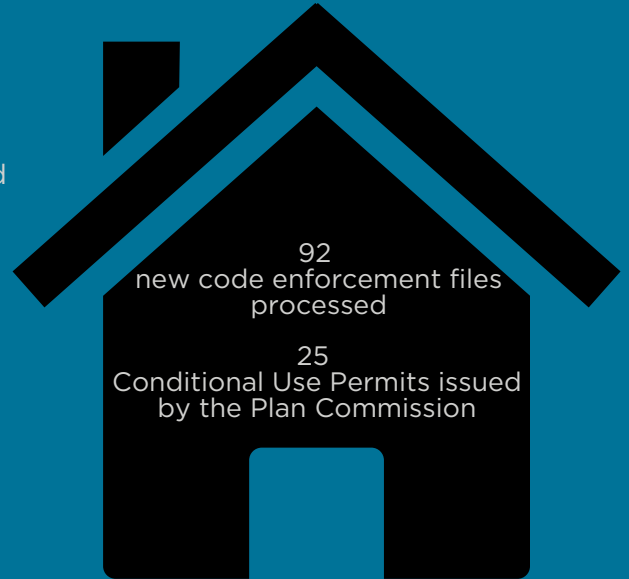
- Permits taken out for 55 new homes and 1 duplex
- Permits for 4 apartment buildings (three-24 unit & one 21-unit)
- Addition to the Johnsonville Plant
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall

\$174,432 Park Improvement fees collected
\$17,289 in fees in lieu of dedication collected



Over \$20.5 million in residential property improvements

Over \$15 million in commercial property improvements

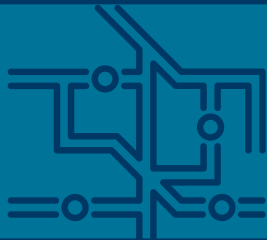


92
new code enforcement files processed

25
Conditional Use Permits issued by the Plan Commission

DPW- ENGINEERING

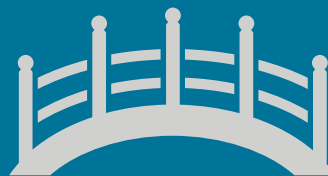
Flooding, creeks, and culverts will be evaluated on the west side of the city, partially funded by grants



City-wide Bike & Pedestrian Plan are underway

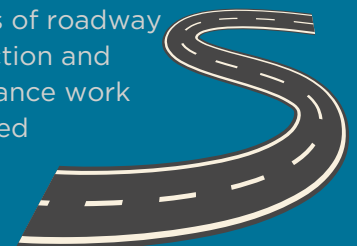
Western Ave., S. First St., and the public alley behind were reconstructed.

Concrete ramp and steps constructed connecting Main Street to the boardwalk



Main Street Bridge was completed and opened to traffic again!

4.3 miles of roadway construction and maintenance work completed



DPW-STREET & SOLID WASTE



Curbside collection of 2,465 tons of recycling



Curbside collection of 5,428 tons of garbage and solid waste



Curbside collection of 1,500 tons of leaves

23 salting operations for snow and ice control

5 plowing operations for snow and ice control

3 brining operations for snow and ice control

Construction Projects

S. First St. parking lot

Alleys between S. 1st & S. 2nd and Rock St. & Cady St.

West Street frontage road

Resurface work on various roads

Repairs of catch basin, manholes, and curbs and (new) sidewalks

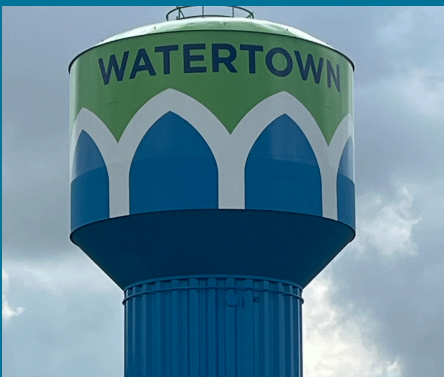
Demo Riverside Park restrooms and new concrete around new ones

Dig and prep all the water main break patches

Maintenance and compliance at the N. Church St. fill site



DPW-WATER SYSTEMS



Hired a private contractor to begin a citywide lead service line replacement project (960 private side lead services, and 437 public side lead services). This is mandatory due to the EPA's changes to the lead and copper rule. All municipalities in the US must remove all lead services by October 2034. Available grants helped home owners cover the cost.

Water:

- Replaced and installed 1,050 feet of new watermain.
- Rehabilitated the west side water tower with the city logo.
- Replaced well #4 raw water line



Wastewater

- Installed three emergency stand-by generators at outlying lift stations: Country Club Lane, 18th Hole, Grandview
- Contributed \$300,000 to the development of the Rock River Ridge sanitary sewer system
- Commenced the 495kW DC ground-mounted solar array on the wastewater campus (1/3 the daily power consumption is now being offset by the solar)
- Rehabilitated 2,492 feet of sanitary main
- Replaced the combination sewer vacuum high power jet cleaning truck
- Replaced all the HVAC controls on the WWTP campus (10 buildings)



PARK, RECREATION, & FORESTRY



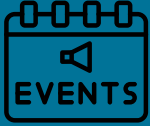
Senior and Community Center

- 19 enrichment programs with 530 individual and family participants
- 13,740 people attended 1054 Senior Center activities; 5,797 people attended 334 community activities
- 128 new memberships, 723 total memberships



Recreation

- 146 recreation programs with 420 adults and 1900 children in attendance



Rental Programs

- 463 total rentals



Bentzin Family Town Square

- Raised \$40,000 in grants & sponsorships
- 55 events
- 13.2 K unique visitors



Aquatics

- Sold 1344 individual and family passes for the year
- 100 aquatic programs with 629 participants



Parks Division

- Maintained 330 acres of parks
- 10 tournaments held
- Fire Department landscaping improvements

Forestry Division

- Removed 120 trees
- 87 total tree planted
- Pruned 334 trees



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Responded to
3,205 total calls
for fire and EMS
service



Responded to
295 lift assist
calls



28% of total calls
are simultaneous

6% increase
from 2024

943 Inspections
were completed



Moved into the new station-open house with over 1000 people and numerous tours throughout the year

Baby Box Blessing and in service

Events included: Pop up Splash pad, freeze pop fire house tours, MATC Fire/EMS workshop & more



Miovision Opticom Traffic Control system installed-improving safety through controlled intersections

Delivery of a new ambulance

Battalion Chief Chad Butzine recognized as American Legion Firefighter of the Year at the state level



POLICE DEPARTMENT



3 new officers and 1 new Jefferson County Human Service partner joined the department

The department is now staffed at 24% female officers.



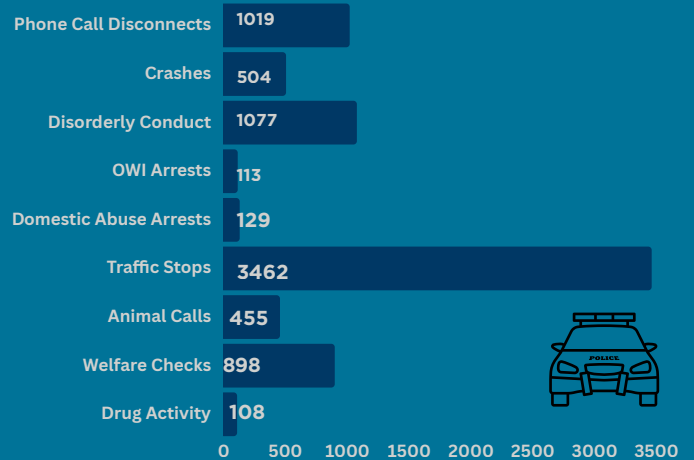
- Officer Lenske was awarded for his work in Drug and Alcohol enforcement
- Officer Miller was awarded for his partnership with the Jefferson County Drug Free Coalition.
- Officer Winchester was awarded the Jefferson County 2025 Crisis Intervention Training Officer of the Year
- Officer Achilli was awarded the Jefferson County 2025 Officer of the Year for a bravery incident

K9 CHANCE HIGHLIGHTS



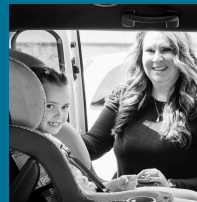
- 6 community demonstrations
- 21 arrests
- 15. g of meth seized
- 17.29g of fentanyl seized
- 42g of cocaine found & seized

15,846 TOTAL SERVICE CALLS



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

2025 was the first full year of operation for the Watertown Department of Public Health Laboratory. WDPH lab analyzed 247 bacteria and 258 nitrate samples for transient, non-community public water systems in Dodge and Jefferson Counties. In addition to those public water systems, WDPH lab will be offering bacteriological and nitrate analysis for private well owners in 2026.



The WDPH continued its commitment to child passenger safety by offering free car seat checks for families and caregivers. A team member successfully completed the rigorous week-long training required to become a **Certified Child Passenger**

Safety Technician, This gives the department two certified technicians who collectively provide the majority of all car seat installations and safety checks in the city. **49 car seats** were inspected, and **17 new car seats** were distributed to eligible families.

In partnership with Dodge Jefferson Healthier Community Partnership, WDPH completed a Community Health Assessment using the Vital Conditions Framework, with mental health as the overarching priority. The results can be found on the City of Watertown website under Health Department /Community Health Data.



Social Connection Events: Food pantry, Community Baby Shower, Lights N Sirens, Senior Community Resource Fair, & more

Two staff members were certified to teach Mental health First Aid, which equips city staff to recognize early signs of mental health challenges and connect individuals to resources. 32 city employees were certified.



PUBLIC LIBRARY



Storytime with Watertown Fire Department and EMS!

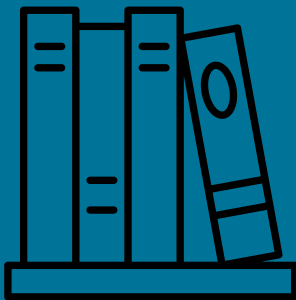


A special spring story time visitor from Jelli's Market. "Ewe" belong at the library!

The yearly attendance was 174,664 patrons visiting the library and the daily average was 495 people.



The 2nd annual and very successful WPL Film Festival



13,288 Registered users

- Total circulation of physical materials was 274,944
- 1,490 new cards given out
- 601 programs offered to children, teens, and adults
- 62,000 wireless uses
- 1,310 mobile print users
- 60,386 e-content checkouts



MEDIA PRODUCTIONS

Achievements

Launched a new website platform including a new city app that lets residents view city information easily and can send notifications.

Restructured and renamed the The Weekly Roundup to Robert's Roundup, amping up production value and content. the average RR views are over 10K per episode.

YouTube

34,226 total views
246 new subscribers
1,299 total subscribers



City Website

76K users
1.1M total views



Facebook

4.6M total post views
1,879 new followers
10,515 total followers



Staff member Evan Rodriguez began his college journey at UW Oshkosh. Evan continues to work during school breaks and remotely during the school year.



City staff gathered for the filming of the 2025 holiday video



Evan Hisey and Max Alexander film the opening sequence for the city holiday video



Evan Hisey films the Main Street Bridge ribbon cutting in April.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT



270 meeting notices were published
 30 Special Event permits issued
 29 Transient Permits
 2033 licenses issued



- 81 liquor, tobacco, second hand
- 45 Temp. Class B (picnic)
- 640 operator (bartender)
- 34 temp. operator (bartender)
- 1 carnival
- 1232 dog (DC-474, JC-758)



The Finance office implemented the acceptance of credit card payments in the Finance Department and changed other departments to utilize the same processor, providing a decrease in their service fees.



8,567 out of 13,070 (65%) total registered voters cast a ballot in the April 2025 election



ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT & CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



A new Mayor was elected in April
 We hired a new IT Coordinator in July
 We hired a new Economic Development Manager in October.

The city underwent a compensation study

The city changed their insurance carrier from ETF to Dean Health Care

There were 1,079 helpdesk tickets submitted



Attorney Steven Chesebro concluded his service with the City of Watertown in July 2025, and Attorney Alexandra Panagopoulos assumed the position in September 2025. Thank you to Attorney Chesebro for his dedication and knowledge.

Leadership Watertown Project contributed \$2000 to enhance the alleyway behind Bismarck's on E Main Street.

The **Downtown Commercial Revolving Loan Program** provided low-interest loans for facade improvements, structural repairs, and upgrades to plumbing, electrical, heating, and cooling systems.

Thanks to the generosity of Dr. John Beltz, and the **Beltz Foundation Downtown Watertown Grant Program**, the RDA awarded grants of up to \$10,000 for public events that attract more than 150 attendees, meet area economic development goals, and provide business and community involvement, such as the holiday tree lighting. It also supported local businesses with funding for capital improvements and renovations.

Using one-time American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, the **RDA's Housing Rehab Grant Program** deployed more than \$36,000 to help homeowners address deferred maintenance, improve energy efficiency, and enhance curb appeal.



Municipal Citations: 2460
Municipal Court Trials: 26
Circuit Court Trials: 7
Pre-Trial Conferences: 164