

INSIGHT 2021



A WORD FROM YOUR MAYOR



Greetings, Watertown friends, family, and colleagues,

I am pleased to present to you our 2021 City of Watertown Annual Report!

Our goal for this report is to inform you of key information and statistics about the progress we made in 2021. We accomplished much in 2021 and we intend to make 2022 even better. We began issuing these reports in 2019, and we are proud to share a summary of overarching successes from 2021.

One major accomplishment of 2021 was the completion of renovations and expansion of the public library. It is a

beautiful space, and I am excited to see it being used! Citizens of all ages benefit daily from the refreshed and freshly added spaces, services, and programs that the library provides. If you haven't visited the library lately, please reacquaint yourself!

A lot of important work was also done in 2021 by the Downtown Mainstreet Reconstruction Task Force. The Task Force's purpose is to ensure we appropriately plan for needs and changes pertaining to reconstructing our Main Street in the coming years. We continue to make plans based off of a report produced by the Task Force and approved by the Public Works Commission, and we are beginning the process of planning support for our Main Street businesses to keep business successfully operating during reconstruction.

Much was accomplished in 2021, and there are many incredible plans to execute in 2022. On behalf of the City of Watertown team, thank you for your continued support of the work we do to serve you; it is an honor to work on behalf of this community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Emily McFarland, Mayor

DISTRICT 1

Ald. Dana Davis

DISTRICT 2

Ald. Karen Wendt

DISTRICT 3

Ald. Chris Ruetten

DISTRICT 4

Ald. Dan Bartz

DISTRICT 5

Ald. Will Licht

DISTRICT 6

Ald. Cassandra Wagner

DISTRICT 7

Ald. Eric Schmid

DISTRICT 8

Ald. Bob Wetzel

DISTRICT 9

Ald. Jim Romlein

POLICE

Robert Kaminski

FIRE

Kraig Biefeld

FINANCE DIRECTOR

Mark Stevens

PUBLIC WORKS

Jaynellen Holloway

CITY ATTORNEY

Steven Chesebro

MEDIA PRODUCTIONS

Lisa Famularo

PARKS, RECREATION, & FORESTRY

Randy Wojtasiak

PUBLIC HEALTH

Carol Quest

WATER/WASTEWATER

Peter Hartz

ENGINEERING

Andrew Beyer

STREET & SOLID WASTE

Dan Zuelsdorf

BUILDING, SAFETY & ZONING

Jacob Maas

LIBRARY

Peg Checkai

WATERTOWN, THEN AND NOW



The Octagon House in 1933



The Octagon House in the winter



Postcard of downtown Main Street from 1927



Downtown Main Street Watertown



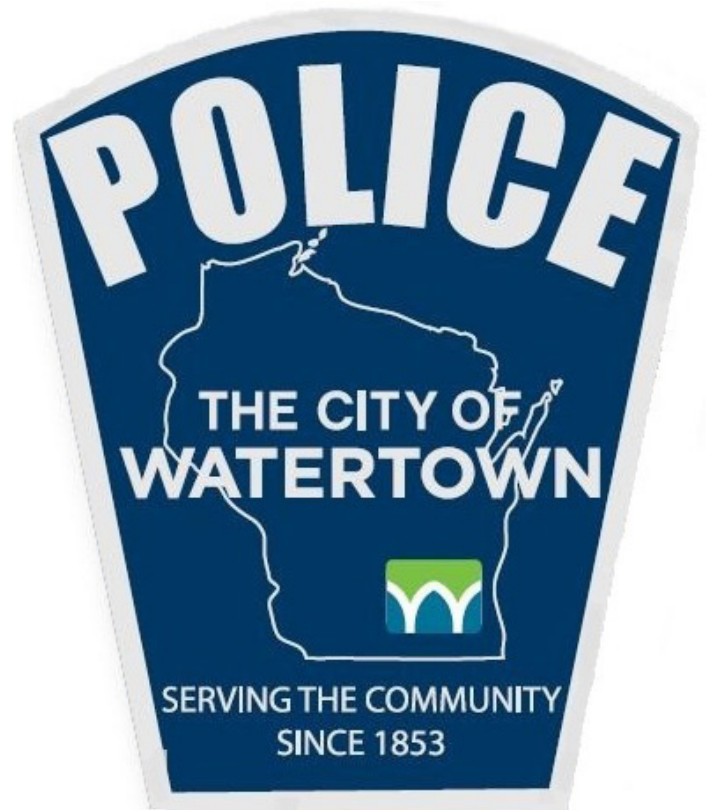
Postcard of Tivoli Bridge from 1910



Tivoli Bridge in the winter

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- The Watertown Police Department responded to 18,025 calls for service in 2021 - an 8.73% increase. This included:
 - 468 calls for car crashes - 7.34% increase
 - 909 calls about disorderly conduct - 22.17% decrease
- K9 Chance and his handler, Officer Hensley, responded to a total of 53 incidents in 2021
 - Some of those incidents included 33 traffic stops, one traffic fleeing subject, and two drug searches



FIRE DEPARTMENT



- Watertown Fire Department responded to 2,755 calls in 2021 - a 6% increase from 2020
- 74% were emergency responses for medical services
- WFD responded to 552 fire calls - a 10.6% increase from the previous year
- WFD responded to 92 motor vehicle accidents - a 21.7% increase
- WFD responded to 39 hazardous materials calls

PUBLIC WORKS: WATER/WASTEWATER

- Replaced 5,700 feet of 100-year-old water main
- Replaced 135 private and 64 public lead service lines
- Treated and pumped 950 million gallons of water
- Replaced 1350 feet of century old sewer and lined 3,900 feet of sewer pipe, for a total of 5,250 feet
- Cleaned 174,000 of sanitary sewer – 33 miles of pipe
- Treated over 1 billion gallons of wastewater



PARKS, RECREATION, AND FORESTRY

Latest investments and additions included:

- Interurban Trailhead
- Silver Creek Warming House
- Clark Park Shelter
- Expanded the watercraft rental fleet in the summer to include a tandem kayak and stand-up paddle boards which were funded by a Watertown Tourism Grant



PUBLIC WORKS: ENGINEERING

- Eight total miles of roadway construction and maintenance was completed
- Restored the failing downtown plaza area and failing riverwalk seawalls
- Developed storm water programs including pollution testing, erosion control inspections & permit reviews
- Developed a storm water public education and outreach program



PUBLIC WORKS: BUILDING / SAFETY / ZONING

- 33 building permits for new single-family homes
- Over \$19,000,000 in commercial property improvements were made
- Over \$5,000,000 in residential property improvements were made
- Created Central Business Apartments (12 Dwelling Units) which allows for principal land use of multi-family housing within the Central Business District, with a density allowance of greater than 12-dwelling units per acre
- Recreated the Sign Code to comply with Reed v. Town of Gilbert, 576 U.S. 155 (2015).
- Razed 109/113 Jones Street for additional parking
- Processed 169 code enforcement files



MEDIA PRODUCTIONS

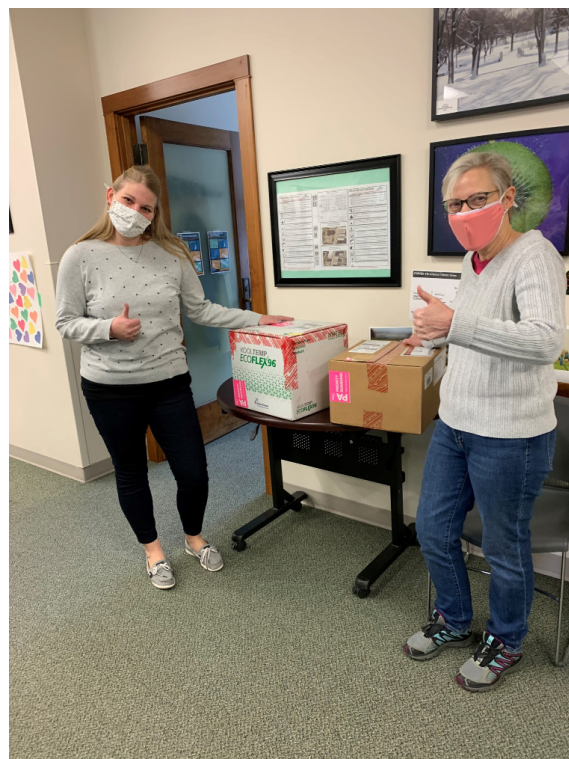
- Watertown TV increased Gosling live-streaming sports coverage drastically, with a goal of covering all varsity home football, basketball, and soccer games in 2022
- Produced “Featured Business of the Month” videos, bringing awareness of local businesses, what they do or produce, and employment opportunities.
- Completed a total redesign of the City Connection newsletter, a semi-annual publication of important city information delivered to residents by mail and offered digitally on the city website
- Watertown TV provided the community with 900-plus hours of programming produced by Watertown, for Watertown
- Increased the city’s social media presence to increase resident awareness of city business, provide transparency, and increase citizen engagement



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- 1,846 positive COVID-19 cases
- 1,762 COVID-19 cases resolved
- Administered 10,692 vaccine doses
- 36 car seat checks, 10 car seats given to families in need
- Hosted 5 food donation events serving over 40 families
- UW Population Health Institute Group awarded the “Healthiest Community Gold Designation” to Get Healthy Watertown (GHW) and the City of Watertown for overall community health initiatives
- Completed a total of 509 environmental health inspections



WATERTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY



The addition to the library was completed in May and library staff moved the entire collection from the “old” side to the “new” side. A temporary library was created and services were provided until December. The library reopened on January 24, 2022.

- 201,386 items were checked out; 96,900 were children’s materials
- 36,764 items were borrowed from other libraries and the Watertown Library loaned 20,206 items to neighboring libraries
- 12,463 residents had library cards and 4,085 non-residents had library cards
- Library staff answered 16,548 reference questions
- 81,293 visits to the library
- 58,053 visits to the library’s website
- 20,665 E-Books were downloaded

WATERTOWN MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

- Two runways were crack sealed to improve their condition
- The environmental study for Boomer Street relocation was approved by the Bureau of Aeronautics and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- Flight student enrollees rose
- The Community Open house in September brought in over 350 people.
 - There were over 130 airplane rides given, as well as helicopter rides



STREETS AND SOLID WASTE



- 2,887 tons of garbage recycled
- 5,382 tons of garbage/solid waste collected
- 1,492 tons of leaves collected
- 23 salting operations for snow & ice control
- Eight plowing operations for snow & ice control
- Four storm sewers were reconstructed
- Three storm sewers were repaired
- Installed sidewalk at the Interurban Trailhead
- Demolished structures on Jones Street for expansion of the Municipal Building parking lot

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Reorganization from Clerk's office to Finance Department
 - Four elections conducted
 - 3,641 absentee ballots issued.
 - Total votes cast: 11,083
- 1,491 dog licenses issued
- 256 cat licenses issued
 - Cat licenses were eliminated for 2022.
- 660 other licenses issued

