



CITY OF HORNELL

Fall 2025 Edition



Upcoming **Events**

Board of Public Safety Meetings **9am -2nd Floor Conference Room**

October 9 November 13
December 11 January 8

Board of Public Works Meetings **10am -2nd Floor Conference Room**

October 16 November 20
December 18 January 15

Common Council Meetings **7pm- Council Chambers**

October 20 November 17
December 15 January 20

October 11, 2025

Maple City Fall Festival
Noon-6pm

October 25, 2025

HPG Trunk or Treat
Broadway Mall- 5pm-8pm

October 31, 2025

Trick-or-Treating
6pm-8pm

November 29, 2025

Hornell for the Holidays
Parade at 5pm

City Hall Closures

October 13.....Columbus Day
November 11.....Veterans Day
November 27 & 28.....Thanksgiving



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

As summer turns to fall, I've been reflecting on all we've accomplished together over the past year and how much of it comes down to one thing: **Community**.

It's easy to see the progress. We've made key infrastructure upgrades, including a major project at our Water Pollution Control Plant, the paving of 12 streets, and secured funding for two future bridge replacements. These long-term investments will serve Hornell for years to come. Our downtown continues to grow more vibrant, thanks to new streetscape improvements, public art, and the addition of a pedestrian park that's made the area more walkable, inviting, and full of opportunity for new and existing local businesses. Our parks have truly become gathering places. Union Square is now a lively spot for concerts, events, and connection. Shawmut Park offers green space, trails, a skatepark, and family-friendly amenities. Veterans Memorial Park is bustling with activity from pickleball and tennis to relaxing picnics. These spaces don't just look great, they bring us together.

But beyond the physical improvements, what really makes Hornell special is our people. It's the neighbor who lends a hand, the volunteer who shows up, the local business that gives back, and the city employees and first responders who keep things running every day.

As we head into fall, I hope we all take a moment to appreciate the beauty around us and the people who make Hornell feel like home. Whether it's a walk in the park, supporting a small business, or catching up with a neighbor, we each play a part. Let's keep moving forward, supporting each other, and building the kind of community we all want to be part of.





From the Fire Department

The Fire Department would like to remind residents that as the warm summer weather gives way to cooler fall air, we recommend having your heating systems, such as furnaces and boilers, cleaned and inspected by a licensed HVAC technician. This will ensure a safer heating system for the winter season.

This is also a great time to consider testing smoke, fire, and carbon monoxide alarms to be sure they are operational. Alarms save lives and we recommend testing them on a bi-annual basis minimally.

We would also like to remind residents with the drier weather this summer, to please exercise caution with outdoor recreational fires.

Fires must be contained in a fire pit or chiminea-type fireplace with a spark-arresting cover, kept under two feet tall, and situated at least 15 feet from flammable structures. Fires must use only dry wood or charcoal, not trash or yard waste. A readily available method of extinguishment, like a hose or fire extinguisher, and continuous adult supervision are required. Additionally, the fire must be extinguished if it creates a smoke or odor nuisance for a neighbor, and outdoor burning can be prohibited during extreme fire conditions.



Photo (Above): Congratulations to Firefighter Mathew Donovan for completing paramedic school and all examinations, including the New York State and National Paramedic Exam. Mathew is a certified paramedic for the Hornell Fire Department. Congratulations and thank you!



Codes Office Update

The Codes Office would like to remind landlords that all apartments must be inspected prior to the move in of any new tenant and every 30 months with any unchanged tenant.

Inspections are critical to ensure safety of an apartment and compliance with all regulations. Inspections benefit both the tenant and landlord as a reference to apartment condition prior to occupancy.

The Codes Office also performs annual inspections of commercial properties. These include Place of Public Assembly (PPA) and fire safety inspections, conducted with the Fire Department to ensure the safety of each space. They also provide the Fire Department with important access information, testing, and reminders to be best prepared in the event of an emergency.

As we move into the fall, we would also like to remind residents leaves and snow, as well as grass, cannot be placed upon the City streets. This creates drainage issues and can create safety risks for cyclists or pedestrians. Please place bagged leaves at the curb for pick-up by the DPW.

The mowing season comes to a close October 15th. Until then, all grass, brush, and weeds must be kept under the state limit of 10 inches.

Finally, we would like to remind residents garbage and refuse are to be placed at curbside the evening before pick-up and cans are to be removed, to the back of the property, after trash pick-up.



Photo(Above): The Board of Public Safety approved appointments for Dale McMichael Jr (left) and Jordan Emo (right) as firefighters at their August meeting. McMichael and Emo both have volunteer firefighting experience and hold their EMT certification. McMichael and Emo are enrolled to complete fire academy training in February 2026. Welcome, Dale and Jordan!



Photo (Above): Fire Chief Frank Brzozowski and Code Enforcement Officer Larry Bacon conduct a PPA inspection. These inspections help maintain safety by checking sprinklers, fire alarms, exits, and more. They are an important service that ensures commercial spaces are prepared in the event of an emergency.

Skatepark Improvement

The planned expansion of the skatepark at the Michael Fucci Memorial Park at Shawmut is moving forward in the design and planning phase. The project was recently awarded \$530,631 in grant funds through the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP).

Improvements will include additional ramp installations and a pump track. Pump tracks can be used by riders on bicycles, skateboards, scooters, or skates and are suitable for riders of all skill levels, whether beginner or advanced.



Photo (Above): A visual sample for readers who may not be familiar with pump tracks. This photo shows a pump track provided by the American Ramp Company in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. The pump track at Shawmut Park may look different, but will be a very exciting addition to the park!

Pump tracks are growing in popularity throughout the nation for children and adults alike, and will be a unique addition to the City of Hornell.

Art Installations through the DRI

The final pieces of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) are arriving to Hornell. The last components of the DRI included public art installations. In early June, artist Sam Castner of Ironvine Studios installed two sculpture pieces in the City's downtown area.

The last remaining art piece to be installed will be a mural on the Lion's Will building on Pave Alley. The mural offers a beautiful yet playful look at animals we often share our world with. It was designed by artist Glenn Zwegardt, who also created the Pave Alley archway and the "Homage to Gus" sculpture on Broadway. Final touches to the design are still underway, and residents can expect the mural to be completed this fall!

Photo (Right): The "Atlas Shrugged" sculpture was installed at Union Square Park earlier this summer.

It was designed and installed by artist Sam Castner of Ironvine Studios and was inspired by trees as a reflection of their sustainability. The piece is a perfect fit for the Maple City and arrived just in time for the Thursdays in the Park summer concert series.



Photo (Above): Artist Sam Castner installs a second sculpture, "The Tracks of Hornell" in Downtown Hornell. The sculpture was created in collaboration with Hornell High School art students from Mr. Jamie Kull's class.

Students envisioned the sculpture as telling the story of Hornell, with history bursting from the pages of a book. It features a historical timeline, references to the City's rail history with tracks and a train, and maple leaves crafted by the students themselves.



Photo (Above): A sneak peek at a preliminary design for the mural on the brick wall on Pave Alley.



Photo (left): Artist Glenn Zwegardt (right) and Tomas stand with cutouts of a bear and her cubs planned for use on the building mural.



Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works is wrapping up another busy summer season. This year, the department completed paving on several City streets, including Emmett St., Seward St., Hubbard St., Dennis Ave., Hill St., and Center St.

The street sweeper season will come to an end on October 25, 2025. Residents can also expect the third, and final, round of hydrant flushing to occur the week of: **October 11- October 17**. Hydrant flushing is a necessary part of maintaining our water system to allow for optimal performance. Residents may experience discolored water during this time, and we encourage running water until it's clear before using. We appreciate your patience!

The DPW would also like to remind residents not to blow leaves or shovel snow onto City streets. This creates dangerous travel and is against City code. Please place bagged leaves at the curb for pick up, if desired.

Finally, we would like to remind residents that we offer a sidewalk replacement program. The current cost is \$17.50 per square foot, with the work completed as time allows. If interested or for more information, please call us at 607-324-7421.

WPCP Receives Planning Grant

The City of Hornell has been awarded a \$50,000 Engineering Planning Grant from the Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) to study options for treating and disposing of the solid waste produced at the Hornell Wastewater Pollution Control Plant (WPCP).

The grant will fund a study to explore the most economical and environmentally sustainable methods for managing biosolids. Our current land application equipment is over 40 years old, and the study will help determine whether new tractors and application devices are needed. Recent research on polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), synthetic "forever chemicals" found in products such as non-stick cookware, water-repellent clothing, and food packaging, has highlighted the need to consider the environmental impact of recycling biosolids as fertilizer. Preliminary testing in Hornell has shown very low levels of PFAS in our wastewater and sludge, and lab results indicate our waste contains very low or no levels of the 40 pollutants commonly tested.

Hornell WPCP staff will work closely with consultants from LaBella Associates, P.C. to evaluate all options, including alternative disposal methods and equipment upgrades. This study will provide the City with the information needed to make safe and sustainable decisions for managing wastewater solids while protecting public health and the environment.

Want to stay up-to-date with the latest from the City of Hornell?



Follow us on Facebook!



Meet the DPW: David McMichael



Photo (Left): David McMichael has been a dedicated employee for the City of Hornell since 1996. Dave is currently the assistant foreman, and his job includes helping the general foreman with all aspects of street construction and waterline repairs. Dave is also an equipment operator and mason. Dave is an integral employee of the Department of Public Works. Thank you for all you do, Dave!



Photo (Above): Brandon McGregor stands next to the new sewer truck received in August of 2025. This truck replaces the prior sewer truck which was just over 10 years old. Nicknamed "Vactor" for its vacuum and jetting capabilities, this truck is in use daily, clearing "Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG)" from sewer lines that negatively impact the system. This critical equipment was able to be secured through Sourcewell as a demo truck, making the vehicle more affordable and available right away.



Photo (Left): Walls were recently poured at 440 Canisteo Street, the site of the 14th house created in collaboration with Greater Southern Tier (GST) BOCES building trades program. Students from Mr. Rob Lemay's building trades program will begin work on site this fall. This valuable program creates brand-new, single-family homes at a cost of only materials, while providing students hands-on learning.

Hornell Area Transit is Hiring Drivers!

Hornell Area Transit (HAT) provides dependable public transportation for the City of Hornell and surrounding communities, connecting residents to jobs, school, shopping, health care, and other daily needs. With more than 52,000 trips provided last year, HAT continues to be an important service that many people rely on.

To continue meeting this need, HAT is actively seeking drivers. A Class C (or higher) Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with passenger endorsement is preferred, but training is available for qualified candidates. Drivers play an important role in ensuring residents have access to safe and reliable transportation, and this position offers the chance to make a direct impact in the community.

HAT operates daily routes to Almond, Alfred, Bath, and Canisteo, and provides Dial-A-Ride service to residents of the City of Hornell and surrounding areas.

Accessibility is a priority, and all buses are handicap accessible to ensure mobility for those who may face challenges getting around. The service allows residents to plan their days with confidence, stay engaged in community life, and travel safely and efficiently throughout the region.

Come join a great team that provides a valuable community service! For more information, please call: 607-324-7910 or visit our website at: <http://www.hatrides.com>. Printable applications are available under the "View More" tab.



**WE ARE
HIRING!**

DRIVERS WANTED

**STARTING WAGES
\$16.50-\$19+ PER HOUR**

You can find a printable application on the "View More" tab on our website or call our office for an application or more information!

607-324-7910
www.hatrides.com

Photo (above): HAT is hiring drivers! If you or someone you know is interested, please call 607-324-7910 or visit www.hatrides.com.

A Message from the City Chamberlain

The City Chamberlain's Office is responsible for collecting taxes, water bills, garbage bills and other payments.

The **2025-26 School** tax bills are due by **October 31, 2025** without penalty. The School tax will be collected in our office through **December 31, 2025**.

Metered water bills for commercial properties are due by **September 30, 2025** without penalty.

The residential water bills are due by **October 31, 2025** without penalty.

The **2025-26 City** tax bill is still being collected in our office until **March 16, 2026**.

Payments can be made in the following ways:

- In person at City Hall, 82 Main Street
- Mail to: City of Hornell, PO Box 627, Hornell, NY 14843
- Use our convenient drop box, located on the Seneca St. side of the City Hall building
- Over the phone with Debit/Credit card*
- Online at cityofhornell.com with Debit/Credit card or E-check. Online tax payments are only available during the first month of collection before any penalties have been added. Online water and solid waste payments are available anytime.

**Any payment made using a Debit/Credit card or E-check is subject to a convenience fee collected by the third-party payment provider.*

You can view current and past City, County, and School tax bills, or obtain tax receipts online on our website:

<https://www.cityofhornell.com/chamberlains-office>



Photo (Above): The Water Treatment Plant (WTP) would like to recognize Caleb Mitchell (Left) and Joe Brungard (right) for passing their Department of Health 1A Operator's exam. Operator's must work a minimum of 10 years (or educational equivalent) in a WTP and complete training to be able to take the 5 hour on-site exam. Both Mitchell and Brungard have passed their exam and await certification documentation from the NYSDOH. Congratulations to Caleb and Joe on this significant achievement!



Police Update

The Hornell Police Department would like to remind residents about its DIVERT program (Drug Intervention through Voluntary Education, Rehabilitation and Treatment). This program was started in early 2020 and continues to offer a compassionate and proactive alternative to the traditional criminal justice system for individuals struggling with addiction.

Since its launch, the DIVERT program has helped connect community members with treatment providers, including CASA Trinity, and has given individuals the opportunity to seek recovery support voluntarily, without fear of arrest or prosecution.

DIVERT is strictly voluntary and continues to build on Chief Ted Murray's long-standing open-door policy, allowing residents to walk into the department, turn over drugs, and ask for help confidentially.

The DIVERT program remains one part of HPD's broader commitment: continuing strong enforcement against drug use while offering those struggling with addiction a genuine chance at treatment and recovery.

The DIVERT program is spearheaded by Captain Michael Sexsmith, and is coordinated with our designated DIVERT officers: Seth Blanchard, Timothy Thurston, Eric Kerr, and Sgt. Dan Murray.

If you are that person in need of help or if you are someone seeking options to help that person you care about, please do it now before it's too late. Come and speak with one of our dedicated DIVERT officers currently serving as liaisons, working with individuals to establish contact, arrange treatment meetings, and track progress.



Photo (Left): Officer Derek McCumiskey was appointed as Patrolman for the Hornell Police Department at the Board of Public Safety's June meeting. McCumiskey was provisionally appointed in August 2023, has successfully completed the Police Academy, field training, and the Civil Service examination.

DIVERT

Drug
Intervention through
Voluntary
Education
Rehabilitation and
Treatment

A program of the



(607) 324-2860

**"An Open Hand to
Pull You From the
Grip of Addiction"**

Photo (Left): The DIVERT program, initiated in 2020 with the focus to end overdose related deaths in our community. No criminal action is pursued against an individual for coming in with an illegal substance and asking for it to be destroyed and seeking help.

DIVERT is currently partnered with CASA-Trinity of Hornell and when an individual wants to be enrolled, an appointment is immediately set up with a treatment specialist who will discuss options and possibilities available.

The DIVERT program is also partnered with the Steuben County District Attorney's Office. A participant who successfully completes the treatment program may be considered on a case-by-case basis for a lesser criminal penalty as a result of partaking in the program.



News from the Assessor's Office

The Citywide Assessment Update is currently in progress.

January 1, 2026 is the deadline for all property owners to submit exemptions and renewal applications.

NEW STAR APPLICANTS are only eligible for the STAR credit, not the exemption. The STAR Credit provides the same savings as the STAR exemption, though in the form of a check from New York State.

To receive a STAR check, you must register with the **New York State Tax Department** by visiting www.tax.ny.gov or by calling 518-457-2036 (weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

ENHANCED STAR APPLICANTS: You may be eligible for the Enhanced STAR exemption if you:

- Currently have a **Basic STAR** exemption on your primary residence.
- Will be 65 years old before December 31, 2026.
- Meet the income requirements, which were \$100,750 or less for the 2026 exemption year (based on 2024 income). *Note: Eligibility is based on the combined income off ALL owners and their spouses living at the property.*

Connect with the City Clerk

The City Clerk's office would like to welcome our newest employee, **Heather Lisi**.

The City Clerk would like to inform all residents that any peddler or transient merchant within City limits needs to obtain a permit. Peddlers must pay a fee of \$2.00 for one day or \$25.00 for six months. Transient merchants must pay a fee of \$500.00 per event. Applicants must fill out an application and provide proof of insurance. If running a business that includes food, the applicant will also have to contact the Department of Health for regulations and permit requirements.

Residents who have animals within the city are reminded that they need to be licensed or registered.

Dogs and Cats:

State law requires that dogs, four months or older need to be licensed. City code states that all cats must be licensed. Owners are requested to come in person for first time registration and provide a rabies vaccination certificate and spayed/neutered certificate (if applicable). The fee for spayed/neutered animals is \$7.50. while the fees for animals not spayed/neutered is \$15.50. Renewals are required annually.

If you are seeking employment opportunities, there is a board in our outer lobby where we post the Steuben County Civil Service exams. If you see one you are interested in, please ask for a copy at the City Clerk's window.

As a friendly reminder, the Hornell City Court is not a part of the Clerk's office. If you have concerns or questions for the court, please contact them directly at: 607-590-3314.

Citizen Recognition

The City of Hornell is excited to recognize Lyndsey McCoy and Josh Sikorski for their swift and decisive actions during a Hornell Steamers baseball game where an umpire collapsed.

McCoy, an assistant athletic trainer at Alfred University and trainer for the Steamers, quickly responded with a defibrillator. Sikorski, the athletic trainer for the visiting Olean Oilers, joined her, and together they provided aid until a Hornell Fire Department ambulance arrived with Paramedic Mark Joy and Firefighter Justin Morse. Also assisting was Paramedic Chad Hancock, who was in attendance.

Thanks to the care provided on the field, in the ambulance, and at UR Medicine St. James Hospital, the umpire made a full recovery and was released later that evening.



Trash Schedule

Pick Up Schedule

1st & 2nd Wards- Mondays
3rd, 4th, & 5th Wards- Tuesdays
8th & 9th Wards- Wednesdays
10th Ward & North Hornell- Thursdays
6th & 7th Wards- Fridays

Please Note: There may be some variability due to contractor pick up preferences. Contact Lippincott Rubbish if uncertain of your pick up day.

Recycling

We utilize a "No-Sort Recycling Program"

All recyclable items can be collected in just **one** bin!

All glass	Magazines	Paper Cartons
All Paper	Newspapers	Metal Canned Goods
Corrugated Cardboard	Rigid Plastics	Boxboard
Mail & Greeting cards	Plastics #1-#7	Empty aerosols



What can't be recycled?



Garage Items Plastic film Plastic wrap Plastic bags
Paper cups with wax or paper coating

**Recycling pick-up occurs on the
3rd full week of the month.**

***Helpful Tip*:** If the Sun-Sat week has the **21st** in it, that is recycling week!

Holidays

If your pick-up day falls on or after these holidays, your pick up will be delayed by one day:

New Year's Day	Labor Day
Memorial Day	Thanksgiving
4th of July	Christmas

****Any holiday that falls on a weekend will NOT affect your garbage pick-up****



Photo (Above): Firefighter Justin Morse, Paramedic Chad Hancock, Paramedic Mark Joy, Fire Chief Frank Brzozowski, Mayor John Buckley, and Lyndsey McCoy. McCoy and Josh Sikorski were recognized for their calm, professional response when an umpire collapsed at a Hornell Steamers game.



City of Hornell
82 Main St.
Hornell, NY 14843

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Mustang Rally Comes to Hornell

The City of Hornell was excited to host the Mustang Rally of the Finger Lakes at Veterans Memorial Park in August. The rally was sponsored by the City of Hornell, Hornell Partners for Growth, Mayor John Buckley, and Cruize 'N Time Car Shows. The event featured over 90 mustangs displayed at the park, following a fun ride to the Watkins Glen racetrack the previous day. A very fun time was had by all participants, vendors, and visitors and we look forward to next year!



Photo (Above): An aerial view of over 90 Mustangs gathered at Veterans Memorial Park during the Mustang Rally of the Finger Lakes!



Photo: (Above) Participants display their cars with hoods open, giving visitors a closer look at the engines, the variety of colors and styles, and a glimpse of Mustangs from past to present.

Employee Spotlight

The Employee Spotlight proudly shines on Officer Tim Thurston, who was appointed as a patrolman to the Hornell Police Department in 2019.

Officer Thurston's kind and calm demeanor is evident in every interaction, benefiting both the department and the community. He is patient, dedicated, and demonstrates excellent decision-making in critical moments. Thurston also serves on the DIVERT team, where he is trained to assist individuals seeking help with addiction by connecting them with specialists at CASA-Trinity.

Mayor John Buckley shared, "I often receive compliments from residents who interact with our police officers. Officer

Thurston is consistently recognized for his kind and thorough response, which residents deeply appreciate. Just last week, I had a meeting with residents that noted their comfort and trust with Officer Thurston when he responded to their call. Their words remind me how fortunate we are to

have officers like him, whose compassion strengthens the heart of Hornell."

Congratulations and thank you, Officer Thurston, for your continued service to our community.



Photo: (Above) Officer Timothy Thurston receives the Employee Spotlight. Thurston was recognized for his kind and thorough response appreciated by our community. Thurston is also trained with the DIVERT program, and willing and able to assist residents struggling with addiction.