



# CITY OF HORNELL

Spring/Summer 2026 Edition



## Upcoming Events

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

June 11                      July 9  
August 13                  September 10

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

June 18                      July 16  
August 20                  September 10

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

June 15                      July 20  
August 17                  September 21

**June 25-August 27**

Thursdays at the Square  
Union Square Park- 5pm

**July 4, 2026**

*America 250*

*Independence Day Parade @ Noon*  
*Celebration & Fireworks @ Veterans Park*

**July 31 & August 1, 2026**

*Cruise to Watkins Glen & Mustang Rally*  
*Veterans Memorial Park- 9am-3pm*

**September 12, 2026**

*6th Annual Maple City Festival*  
*Main Street @ Noon*

### **City Hall Closures**

June 19.....Juneteenth  
July 3.....Independence Day  
September 7.....Labor Day



## FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

*As we look ahead to America 250, we are reminded that our nation's story is built in communities like Hornell. Our city has always played a proud role in America's history of hard work, progress, and connection, especially through its deep railroad roots dating back to the 1800s. Rail has long been part of Hornell's identity, shaping our growth and linking us to the rest of the country.*

*It is fitting, then, that one of the most exciting moments this summer will be the arrival of the legendary Union Pacific Big Boy #4014, which is making a cross-country journey. This historic locomotive will stop in Hornell on Thursday, June 11, 2026, from 2:00 to 2:30 pm at the Erie Depot on Loder Street. This rare visit is a powerful reminder of the rail heritage that helped build both our city and our nation.*

*As we continue our summer celebrations, I invite everyone to join us for the City's Independence Day parade, followed by a full day of festivities at Veterans Memorial Park. The park will come alive with music, food, family activities, and community spirit as we gather together to celebrate.*

*We will close the day with the largest fireworks display Hornell has ever seen, lighting up the sky in honor of our nation's independence and the people who make our community strong.*

*Together, as we mark America 250, we celebrate not only our nation's history, but also the strength, pride, and spirit that continue to define Hornell.*





## From the Fire Department

The Fire Department had a very busy year in 2025, responding to 400 calls for fire service and over 4,300 emergency medical service (EMS) calls. For fire calls, this included 31 calls for fires, 61 medical assists, 249 service calls, and 40 carbon monoxide calls.

Meanwhile, on the ambulance side, the most frequent calls included breathing problems (245), chest pain (140), fall victims (496), psychiatric concerns (128), and over 600 calls for sick folks in need of support.

The department also recently completed its Annual Training in May. Frequent updates and yearly training for fire and EMS are essential for our first responders to continue providing high-quality service to residents. Fire trainings included search and rescue, fire suppression, ventilation, ladder training, and forcible entry, while EMS training consisted of both Basic and Advanced Life Support, along with specialized pediatric training. We also want to extend a huge congratulations to Firefighters Jordan Emo and Dale McMichael, who built on this department-wide focus on training by graduating from the New York State Fire Academy with their national certifications this past May.

The department recently acquired a new gear drying unit through a grant from PERMA. This specialized equipment allows firefighters to quickly wash and dry their turn-out gear right at the station, effectively removing the toxic chemicals and burning byproducts that cling to fabrics after a fire.

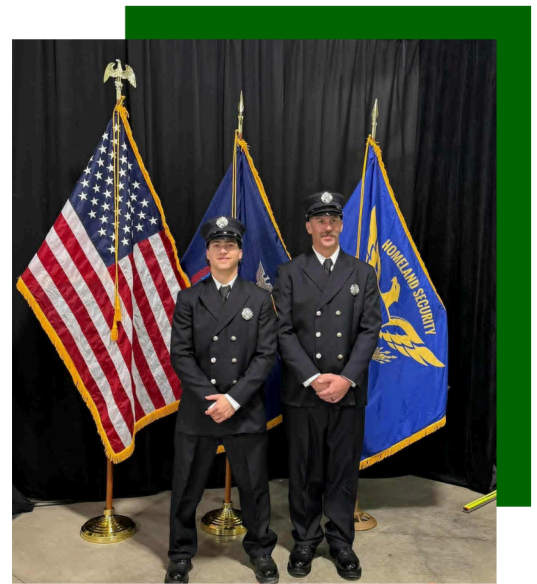


Photo (Above): Congratulations to Firefighters Jordan Emo (left) and Dale McMichael (right) who graduated from the New York State Fire Academy this May.

## Construction Driving Tips

As construction season ramps up throughout the City of Hornell and the surrounding area, particularly with the \$64 million NYSDOT project on State Route 36, the police and fire departments would like to offer the following tips for drivers to ensure safe traffic flow and productive construction season.

- 1. Travel safely and slowly.** Please take your time through various detours and traffic pattern changes as work develops. Work zones can change, and it's important to travel safely and slowly for the protection of the utility crews as well as fellow drivers. **Leave your destination with plenty of extra time and expect delays to avoid rushing.**
- 2. Pull over only when safe to do so.** If you see lights and sirens behind you, and there is no available shoulder, don't panic; Do not slam on your brakes or stop in the middle of a live lane. **Keep moving forward safely until you can find a safe place to pull over.**
- 3. Be Patient.** Construction crews are performing improvements to keep everyone safe and upgrade our infrastructure. Please be patient, eliminate distractions inside your vehicle, and remain mindful of the workers performing these necessary repairs on our roadways.



Photo (Above): Firefighter Austin Wheatcraft with the department's new PERMA grant gear drying unit, installed to improve firefighter safety and equipment longevity.



Photo (Right): Construction begins on the NYSDOT State Route 36 project from Adsit Street through Webbs Crossing, with work slated from Adsit Street through Cass Street next year. Public safety representatives offers tips for safer travel during construction.



# Police Update

The Hornell Police Department would like to inform residents of a new law regarding e-bikes, e-scooters, e-skateboards, and other micromobility devices recently enacted by the Hornell Common Council. Officers have been out on patrol, including bike patrol, providing education, information, and enforcement regarding these devices throughout our community.

We encourage residents to check our Facebook page to keep up with the latest updates from the department. Our page includes daily logs, recent arrests, outstanding warrants, and various public service announcements to help keep the community informed and safe.

Finally, we would like to remind everyone to travel slowly, safely, and sober this summer season. Please take your time on the roads and keep a close eye out for children playing in neighborhoods throughout the city.

**Wishing you all a fun and safe summer from the Hornell Police Department!**



# Codes Office Update

As we move into residential construction season, the Codes Office would like to remind anyone performing structural improvements to their home to secure the proper permits before work begins. Please note that detailed drawings are required for structural projects like additions, decks, and garages. Drawings should include dimensions of the improvement, as well as structure support indications should be included on the drawing.

In Neighborhood Revitalization news, we would like to remind residents that trash and refuse should only be brought to the curb the day ahead of garbage pick up, and receptacles should be returned by the next day. Items should not be left at the curbside if they are not picked up. Lippincott's does a great job with pick up, but they are limited to five 30-gallon bags.

We have provided reminders with violations when we see them, but this seems to be increasing in frequency, and we want to remind violators that tickets can be issued

As we are currently in heavy mowing season, we would like to thank all of you for your cooperation with mowing and maintaining your lawns. We have seen improvements this year and appreciate all efforts to keep our City clean and safe.

Please be a good neighbor, clean up after your pet, maintain your lawn, and together we can enjoy a safe and fun summer season!



# Hornell Police Department

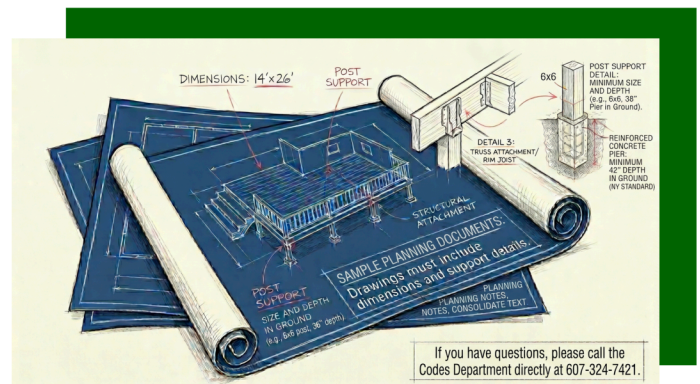
## Local Law for Electronic Bicycles, Electric Scooters, and Electric Skateboards

- **Traffic Laws:** Operators shall obey all traffic control devices and applicable provisions of NY law governing bicycles. Ride in the same direction as traffic flow.
- **Operating Areas:** Devices may be operated only on public roadways with posted speed limits of 30 mph or less (*NYS Vehicle & Traffic Law Section 1242*). Devices are not permitted on any roadway where signs prohibit bicycles or pedestrian traffic.
- **Speed Limits:** Class 1 & Class 2 devices shall not exceed 20mph. Class 3 devices are permitted for law enforcement personnel only. (*NYS Vehicle & Traffic Law Section 1242*)
- **Age Requirement:** No person under the age of 16 years old shall operate an e-bike (*NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law 1242*) or micromobility device.
- **Riding on Sidewalks:** Operation of micromobility devices on sidewalks is prohibited, except to enter or exit a driveway or where expressly authorized by posted signage. (*NYS Vehicle & Traffic Law 1242.5a*)
- **Helmets:** All operators are required to wear helmets that meet Consumer Product Safety Commission standards.
- **Required Lights & Reflectors:** A white front lamp must be visible from at least 500 ft, and a rear red lamp or reflector must be visible from at least 300 ft for nighttime riding. (*NYS Vehicle & Traffic Law 1236*)
- **Rider Limit:** Only one rider shall be permitted unless the device is manufactured for multiple riders.
- **Unsafe, Reckless or Impaired Operation Prohibited:** No motorized micromobility device shall be operated in a reckless or unsafe manner, including weaving through traffic, unsafe passing, excessive speed for conditions or distracted or *impaired operation*. (*NYS Vehicle & Traffic Law 1242A*)
- ★ **Gas Powered Devices:** Gas powered micromobility devices are illegal to operate on public streets, highways, sidewalks or bike paths. Only legally registered motorcycles or vehicles are permitted. (*NYS Vehicle & Traffic 401*)

### **City Parks & Paths:**

- Micromobility devices may be operated in City parks and on designated paths where authorized by posted signage.
- Speed shall not exceed 10 mph while operating in City parks or on designated paths.
- Operators should yield to pedestrians at all times, and slow to walking speed when passing pedestrians.

*Photo (Above): Highlights from recently enacted legislation of the City of Hornell Local Law concerning micromobility devices. The law contains many regulations from New York State, as well as local regulations .*



If you have questions, please call the Codes Department directly at 607-324-7421.



# Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works is prepared for another busy summer season! Street paving has begun, with 10 streets planned for paving this year. The first round has already been completed on Terry Street, Loder Street, Erie Avenue, and Conklin Street. Upcoming street paving includes Cameron Avenue, Collier Street, Genesee Street, East Washington Street, South Division Street, and School Street.

The DPW would also like to remind residents not to discharge or place grass and leaves into City roadways. Grass and leaves can be dangerous for bicyclists and motorcyclists, and they clog the storm sewers and water drainage systems. This practice is illegal and can result in a ticket. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding. Street sweeper season has begun, with the sweeper making weekly visits through the fall of 2026. Street sweeping maintains our roads and removes debris for optimal drainage. Residents should remove cars from the street during overnight hours preceding garbage day, unless otherwise indicated.

A round of hydrant flushing is planned for this summer. Hydrant flushing is essential to maintaining the City's water system. Stay tuned for more information!

Finally, the City's Youth and Recreation program begins on June 29 and runs through late August. Playground attendants will be stationed at the following locations: James Street, Stephens Ave Apartments, Maple City Park (High School), Columbian School, and Bryant Apartments.



Photo (Above): The newly paved Terry Street which is one of ten streets planned for paving this year. Upcoming streets include Cameron Ave, as well as Genesee and Collier Streets, which have been highly anticipated following the completion of gas line work completed by National Fuel.

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



Follow us on Facebook!



## Meet the DPW: Brandon McGregor



Photo (Left): Brandon McGregor has been a dedicated employee for the City of Hornell Department of Public Works for the past 11 years. Brandon's job duties include blacktopping, snow plow operating, working with water and hydrants, and sanitary sewer patrol. Brandon is often the operator of the sewer truck, which was recently upgraded to provide better sewer system maintenance and service. Thank you, Brandon for all that you do!



Photo (Left): Christopher Clark was appointed as the Board of Public Works Commissioner. Clark is a 1998 graduate of Hornell High School, serves as the Hornell School Board President, and also coaches basketball. In his new role, Clark will familiarize himself with the operations of the Water Pollution Control Plant, Water Filtration Plant, and the Department of Public Works.

## Annual Water Quality Report

### NOTICE

The City of Hornell's 2025 Annual Water Quality Report is available on the publicly accessible website at:

<http://www.hornellwaterreport.com>



Photo (Above): The Water Treatment Plant (WTP) would like to inform residents that the Annual Water Quality Report is available at the above link. We would also like to welcome Torin Quinlan who joined us as Operator Trainee in April 2026.

## Connect with the City Clerk

### Did you know the City Clerk can perform marriages at City Hall?

As wedding season is upon us, the Hornell City Clerk's office is happy to inform residents that weddings can be performed right at City Hall! If you are planning on getting married, please view our required documentation on our website: <https://www.cityofhornell.gov/city-clerk> and click the link on the top left of the page.

### Pavilion Rentals at City Parks

Have a class reunion, birthday party, baby shower, or family picnic to plan this summer? City residents can reserve a pavilion at Veterans Memorial Park or Michael Fucci Memorial Park (Shawmut Park) for only \$25 (non-city residents \$50). Pavilion rentals are provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

### Event Applications

Is your group or organization planning an event in the City? Please submit an Event Permit Application to the City Clerk's office. A copy of our form can be found on our website: [cityofhornell.gov](http://cityofhornell.gov) under **City Departments>City Clerk>Event Application**. The button for Event Applications is on the right-hand side of the page, about halfway down.



Photo (Above): Congratulations to Octavius and Danaisha who were recently married at City Hall by City Clerk Heather Lisi (center)!

## A Message from the City Chamberlain

### City Chamberlain's Office- Tax and Payment Information

The City Chamberlain's Office manages the collection of City, School, and County taxes, as well as water bills, solid waste bills, and other payments. Please review the following important dates and payment options to avoid penalties.

#### Tax Collection Dates

- The **2026-27 City Tax** bills were recently sent out in May.

#### Water Bills

- Metered water bills for commercial property were mailed at the end of May and are due by June 30 without penalty.

#### Solid Waste Bills

- Solid waste bills will be mailed by the end of June and are due by July 31, 2026 without penalty. Solid waste is billed annually and includes the pickup of recyclables. Recyclables are collected during the third full week of the month (the week that includes the 21st). You do not need to sort your recyclables.

#### Payment Options

- In person at City Hall, 82 Main Street
- Mail to: City of Hornell, PO Box 627, Hornell, NY 14843
- Use our drop box, located on the Seneca St. side of the City Hall
- Over the phone with Debit/Credit card\*
- Online at [cityofhornell.gov](http://cityofhornell.gov) 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.*

#### To View or Print Bills and Receipts

You can view current and past City, County, and School tax bills, or obtain tax receipts online at [cityofhornell.gov](http://cityofhornell.gov).

## Check out our website!



Need more information?  
Searching for a city contact?  
Looking for forms?

Easy to navigate. Mobile friendly.  
Stay up to date with news, announcements,  
meeting minutes, and more!

<http://www.cityofhornell.gov>



# News from the Assessor's Office

## City of Hornell Expands Senior Tax Exemption Program

In response to rising costs impacting households across the community, the City of Hornell has expanded its property tax exemption program for residents aged 65 and older. The updated program moves from a flat income cap to a graduated sliding scale designed to help more seniors remain financially secure and stay in their homes.

Under the new structure, the maximum household income eligibility for the senior tax exemption increases from \$18,000 to \$25,000. Mayor John Buckley stated, "This tiered approach ensures that while the greatest assistance is directed to those with the most limited financial resources, relief is now available to a much broader group of seniors who are also feeling the effects of a higher cost of living. Previously, the program was structured as an all-or-nothing qualification. This graduated system expands eligibility and provides a proportional reduction rather than a simple cutoff."

City Chamberlain Michele Smith emphasized that the expansion was carefully structured to remain fiscally responsible. "This program is affordable and will not have a significant impact on revenue," Smith said. "It allows us to provide assistance where it is most needed while maintaining the City's financial health."

To qualify for the sliding scale exemption, residents must be at least 65 years of age, own and occupy their residence, and have lived in the home for at least one year prior to applying. For more information, residents may contact the Assessor's Office at City Hall at 607-324-7421.

## CITY OF HORNELL SENIOR TAX EXEMPTION

### WHO QUALIFIES FOR THIS PROGRAM?

- ✓ Age 65 or older
- ✓ Own & occupy home
- ✓ 1+ year residency

ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME	CITY TAX REDUCTION
\$18,000.00 or Less	50%
\$18,000.01 to \$19,000.00	45%
\$19,000.01 to \$20,000.00	40%
\$20,000.01 to \$21,000.00	35%
\$21,000.01 to \$22,000.00	30%
\$22,000.01 to \$23,000.00	25%
\$23,000.01 to \$24,000.00	20%
\$24,000.01 to \$25,000.00	15%

### HOW TO APPLY?

Contact the City Assessor's Office at City Hall.

**(607) 324-7421**

Photo (Above): A chart detailing the expansion of the Senior Tax Exemption. If you qualify or have questions, please contact the Assessor's Office.

## HAT Update

Hornell Area Transit is ready for a busy summer season. We eagerly await the arrival of six new buses, which are anticipated to arrive in July. The bus purchases were made possible through the Federal Transit Authority's (FTA) 5311 Rural Transit grant award. The application was submitted in November of 2022, with the buses finally arriving to our facility this summer. These new buses are paid for with state and federal dollars, with no added cost to the local taxpayer. The updated fleet features full wheelchair accessibility, bike racks, and on-board Wi-Fi.

We also continue to seek part-time drivers and will provide training to approved applicants. Our drivers are vital to the community, helping residents reach their destinations safely. Visit [hatrides.com](http://hatrides.com) or our Facebook page to learn more and apply.



# WE ARE HIRING!

### DRIVERS WANTED

### STARTING WAGES \$17.00-\$20+ 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](http://www.hatrides.com)

Photo (Above): Hornell Area Transit continues to seek drivers. Please check us out online at <http://www.hatrides.com> or call the office at 607-324-7910. HAT operates multiple daily routes to Almond, Alfred, Bath and Canisteo as well as Dial-A-Ride service throughout the City of Hornell. It is a great place to work and provide a valuable community service! We also provide training to get the appropriate license to drive. Check us out today!

# An Update from the WPCP

The Phase 1B upgrade at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is nearing completion. The \$6.2 million project began in July 2024 and includes the replacement of two return sludge pumps, three raw sewage pumps, and a return sludge meter. The new pumps utilize Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs), which allow them to run more efficiently. All of the rain received in early April was a great test for the new pumps, with flow measured at nearly 6 million gallons per day!

Along with the installation of the new pumps, several other upgrades were completed. A new generator was installed to replace the old, antiquated unit. The new generator will be able to run the entire plant in the event of a loss of power. Two boilers and several concrete areas were also restored. Additionally, a new HVAC and ventilation system was installed to remove sewer gas from the building. This upgrade is beneficial for both the operators and the equipment, as equipment will be less exposed to the corrosive atmosphere and the operators will have a safer, more pleasant environment to work in.

For staffing, Operator Trainee Mike Gibson completed the schooling required to take the state exam for his 1A license. Also, Rich Dunning has retired as Chief Operator after 45 years at the helm. Robert McLaughlin was appointed as the new Chief Operator. Josh Scialpa was appointed as Assistant Chief Operator, filling the position vacated by McLaughlin following his promotion. Congratulations to all!



Photo (Above-left): Raw sewage pumps recently installed at the WPCP as part of Phase 1B. The project also includes new return pumps (photo above-right). This upgraded equipment handled an influent of nearly three times the average daily flow during heavy rains this spring. Finally, the photo on the bottom left illustrates the new boiler units installed.



## 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

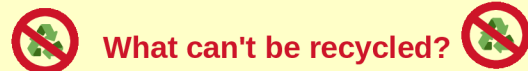
*Please Note: There may be some variability due to contractor pick up preferences. Contact Lippincott Rubbish if uncertain of your pick up day.*

### 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): Congratulations to Robert McLaughlin (right) and Josh Scialpa (left) on their recent promotions at the WPCP. McLaughlin was appointed Chief Operator, and Scialpa was appointed Assistant Chief Operator. They are joined by Rich Dunning (middle), who retired as Chief Operator after 45 years of service. Congratulations and thank you to all!



City of Hornell  
82 Main St.  
Hornell, NY 14843

## Pavilion Added to Veterans Memorial Park

A new pavilion has been added to the pool area at Veterans Memorial Park just in time for the summer season. This will also include the addition of Adirondack chairs to provide a relaxing seating area out of the sun.

The pavilion was built through collaboration with GST BOCES and the building trades students, taught by instructor Rob Lemay, as well as staff from our Department of Public Works (DPW).

Mayor John Buckley explained the idea behind the project, "Our pool and splash pad area at Veterans Memorial Park get a lot of use throughout the summer. One thing we noticed was while the kids were having fun in the pool, the parents and guardians, or often grandparents were supervising with no break from the summer sun. This pavilion should make it more comfortable for visitors to the pool area."

Mayor Buckley continued, "The pavilion is one of many wonderful collaborations brought to life through the partnership with GST BOCES and our DPW. A big thank you to all who assisted with this effort and the many projects before it over the years."



Photo: (Above): The newly built pavilion at Veterans Memorial Park. This large pavilion offers shade for visitors at the pool and will also feature several Adirondack chairs.

## Employee Spotlight

The City of Hornell Employee Spotlight proudly shines on Dana Merring. Dana has served as the mechanic at the Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) since 2017.

The WPCP processes more than 2 million gallons per day and plays an essential role in protecting public health and the environment. Dana is instrumental in maintaining and servicing the plant's equipment to ensure operations continue running safely and efficiently each day.

Mayor John Buckley highlighted Dana's hard work, knowledge, and dedication, stating, "Our Water Pollution Control Plant provides a vital service to our community. Plant operations are complex and rely on equipment and machinery functioning properly each day. Dana's knowledge, experience, and commitment help keep operations running smoothly, and we appreciate all he does for the City of Hornell."

Mayor Buckley continued, "This award is bittersweet as Dana plans to retire at the end of June. We wanted to recognize and thank Dana for his dedicated service to our community and wish him the very best in retirement."

Photo: (Right) Dana Merring, mechanic at the WPCP receives the Employee Spotlight. Merring was recognized for his hard work, knowledge, and dedication in keeping the plant operating efficiently. Congratulations and thank you, Dana!

