



CITY OF HORNELL

Fall 2026 Edition



Upcoming **Events**

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

October 8 November 12
December 10 January 14

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

October 15 November 19
December 17 January 21

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

October 19 November 16
December 21 January 25

October 24, 2026

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

October 31, 2026

Trick-or-Treating
6pm-8pm

November 14, 2026

Eric Devendorf Youth Basketball Camp
Hornell Area YMCA- 10am

November 28, 2026

Hornell for the Holidays
Parade at 5pm

City Hall Closures

October 12.....Columbus Day
November 11.....Veterans Day
November 26 & 27.....Thanksgiving



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

As summer gives way to fall, it is a good time to reflect on our progress this year and look ahead to what is next for the City of Hornell.

In my State of the City Address earlier this year, I spoke about our community's momentum and that momentum continues. We secured \$6.7 million for a major intermunicipal sewer project, while upgrades move forward at our Water Pollution Control Plant. Design work is also underway for Canisteo and Church Street bridges.

One development I am especially excited about is the Arts Center improvement project. After extensive planning, this long-awaited effort is becoming a reality, adding a new dimension to our downtown revitalization and creating a space for arts and culture in the heart of Hornell.

Our investments continue throughout our community as well. Through our housing rehabilitation program, we continue to help eligible homeowners make critical property improvements. At Veterans Memorial Park, a new pavilion was completed near the pool and splash pad through a great partnership between our Department of Public Works and GST BOCES students. Our Fire Department also recently received a \$20,000 grant from the Bethesda Foundation for advanced life-saving training equipment that will benefit our firefighters and others who train at our facility.

There is still plenty of work ahead, but I am proud of our steady progress. By pursuing outside funding, building strong partnerships, and planning carefully for the future, we are making lasting investments for our community.

I hope you and your family enjoy a safe and beautiful fall season here in Hornell.



Recognizing the City of Hornell's Veterans

Citizen Recognition: Henry "Heinz" Pollinger

The City of Hornell is proud to recognize Henry "Heinz" Pollinger for his continued commitment to honoring Hornell's veterans. An Air Force veteran and longtime member of Hornell's veterans' organizations, Heinz has spent years volunteering his time to support local veterans, preserve our military history and make sure the sacrifices of those who served are remembered. That commitment recently led to Heinz spearheading the construction of the Veterans Wall at Veterans Memorial Park.

Heinz spent about a year researching veteran memorials before developing a design for Hornell. From there, he worked with the local AMVETS, American Legion and VFW to organize the project, identify potential donors and raise the funds needed to make it happen.

Heinz's vision and determination turned an idea into a lasting tribute that will be part of Veterans Memorial Park for generations to come. Future plans include expanding the tribute with a depot-style shelter, a sidewalk and lighting, and statues, ensuring our veterans are never forgotten.

The Veterans Memorial Park Group has a memorial brick fundraiser that is now active. The cost for a 4x8-inch brick is \$100. For more information, please check out the Veterans Memorial Park Group- City of Hornell on Facebook or go to

<http://polarengraving.com/hornellvfw>.



Photo (Above): Heinz Pollinger stands with his Citizen Recognition certificate in front of the recently constructed Veterans Wall.



Photo (Above): A ribbon cutting ceremony for the Veterans Wall was held on July 3, 2026, bringing together many of the people who helped make the project possible. Local contractors, City DPW employees, veterans, businesses, and community members contributed time, materials, equipment and financial support to the project.

Citizen Recognition: Keith Cone

The City of Hornell is proud to recognize Keith Cone for his many years of selfless service to our community. A 22-year U.S. Navy veteran and longtime Commander of Hornell VFW Post 2250, Keith has carried his commitment to serving others into every part of his life. Whether helping a veteran in need, supporting a local family, standing behind our first responders, or simply making the VFW a welcoming place for anyone who needs a helping hand, Keith is someone people know they can count on. He is particularly proud of the work done through the Catherine Cone Scholarship, which has raised more than \$63,000 to benefit the community. Much of what he does happens quietly, without seeking recognition.

"Keith has a genuine heart for people and a willingness to step up whenever someone needs help," said Mayor John Buckley. "His kindness, generosity and dedication have touched countless lives and made Hornell a better community."



Photo: (Above): Keith Cone holds the Citizen Recognition in front of the VFW Post 2250.



From the Fire Department

The Hornell Fire Department would like to provide residents with a few tips for the upcoming fall and winter seasons. Unfortunately, events can happen quickly without safeguards in place. These tips can help provide a safer heating season.

1. Test and replace smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and always have a fire extinguisher nearby.
2. Only use space heaters with automatic shut-offs, and plug space heaters directly into an outlet. It is not recommended to plug space heaters into extension cords or power strips.
3. Keep flammable items at least 3 feet away from any heat source.
4. Clean your fireplace and chimney before use, and use a screen or glass enclosure to guard against sparks.
5. Have all furnaces and boilers checked by a licensed service person before starting for the season. Blocked flues, filters, and exhaust can cause issues with your heating device.
6. If you ever smell gas or the odor of rotten eggs, it can indicate a natural gas leak. If you experience this or your detector alarms, leave the house and contact E-911.

In addition to responding to calls for fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS), the fire department is also busy providing fall training for our department, as well as Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training. We wish you a safe and fun-filled fall season.

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



Follow us on Facebook!



Photo (Above): Jacob Giglio was recently appointed as a Provisional Firefighter. Giglio is a 2009 Hornell graduate and was appointed as a call man with the department in October 2025. He responded to an impressive 168 calls and also brings firefighting experience from the South Hornell Fire Department. Giglio is a certified EMT and holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Alfred University and a master's degree in business administration. He will attend an upcoming Fire Academy as he continues his firefighter training. Welcome, Jacob!



Photo (Above): Members of the Hornell Police and Fire Departments, volunteer firefighters, veterans, and community members gathered at Union Square Park for the City of Hornell's 25th Anniversary Remembrance Ceremony for 9/11. The City of Hornell teamed up with the VFW to host the well-attended event, bringing the community together to honor the 2,977 lives lost on September 11, 2001, and the first responders who made the ultimate sacrifice. The ceremony also recognized the many first responders who answered the call in the aftermath of the attacks and the continued service of those who protect our communities today.



Photo (Above): Firefighter Kelsey Brzozowski stands with new training equipment received through a \$20,000 grant from the Bethesda Foundation. Brzozowski was instrumental in securing the grant, working for approximately six months to complete the application. The grant provided adult and infant mannequins and simulation monitoring equipment. This enhances the department's lifesaving training, as well as the training it provides throughout the valley. The Hornell Fire Department is a certified training site and provides training to area fire and EMS departments throughout the year. Thank you to the Bethesda Foundation for supporting our Fire Department!



Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works is wrapping up another busy summer season. This year, the department completed paving on eleven City streets. Our second round of paving on E. Washington St., Cameron Ave., Collier St., Genesee St., School St., South Division St., and Disposal Lane concluded in late September.

The street sweeper season will come to an end in **late October/early November**, depending on weather and how early those cold nights roll in.

Residents can also expect the third and final round of hydrant flushing to occur the week of **October 11-17**. 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 and grass clippings or shovel snow onto City streets. These can create slippery conditions, cause blockages for water drainage leading to localized flooding, or cause roadway hazards for travelers and snow plows. Please place bagged leaves at the curb for pickup, if desired.

Update from the WPCP

Phase 1B of the Water Pollution Control Plant upgrade is essentially complete. The plant recently completed the replacement of 11 doors throughout the facility. These metal doors were nearly 60 years old, with many accumulating rust. The new doors will improve safety and air quality throughout the plant.

The plant continues planning for Phase 1c with consultant LaBella Associates, P.C. to evaluate options for disposal methods and equipment upgrades regarding biosolid disposal.

We also welcomed the appointment of Mike Gibson as Wastewater Treatment Plant Assistant/Shift Operator. Gibson passed his Civil Service exam, finishing first in the county!

We also saw the retirement of mechanic Dana Merring after nearly 10 years of service. We welcomed Keith Howell as our new mechanic.

After 45 years, Chief Operator Rich Dunning has also retired. Dunning served as Chief Operator from 1991-2025, and continued his service at the plant until his recent retirement.

We wish Dana and Rich the best in their well-deserved retirements!

Meet the DPW: Andy Doran



Photo (Above): Meet Andy Doran! Andy has been with the Department of Public Works for 9 years, and provided summer help before that. Andy does it all! He is a labor grade 5 employee, doing street work, plowing, and running equipment. Thank you for all you do, Andy!



Photo (Above): The 14th home built through partnership with GST BOCES is having the finishing touches put on before getting ready to go out to bid. This home is on Canisteo Street. The project provides GST BOCES students with hands-on experience in residential construction while helping create new housing in the City.



Photo (Above): Mike Gibson was appointed as Wastewater Treatment Plant Assistant/Shift Operator at the August Board of Public Works meeting. Gibson is a 2008 Hornell graduate. He received his 1A Operator's license in June.

Connect with the City Clerk

Licensing of cats and dogs is required in the City of Hornell. Pet parents are welcome to visit the City Clerk's office to obtain a new license or renew upon expiration. This can also be done by mail if unable to come in person. Proof of up-to-date rabies vaccination is required.

Donations for the Hornell Area Humane Society are also accepted during the licensing process, with the amount being the owner's choice.

Fees are as follows for both cats and dogs:

Spayed / Neutered: \$7.50

Unaltered: \$15.50

Birth Records

The City Clerk's office has birth records for those born at the old St. James Hospital. Either parent or child listed on the record can request a certified copy by presenting photo identification and a \$10 cash fee in person.

If requesting by mail, please provide written request, copy of ID, \$10 fee and self-addressed stamped envelope.

Water Rate Adjustment

The Common Council has recently approved an increase in water rates for all water users. For residential City water users, the increase adds \$22 to each water bill. The increase reflects the rising cost of operating the City's water system.

"The water treatment plant is operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year," said Plant Operator Lenny Fucci. "There is a tremendous amount of energy involved in operating a water system. Pumps, wells, filtration and treatment equipment all have to operate continuously. This translates to increased energy costs, much like residents face in their own homes. The chemicals used to treat the water and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) required sampling also become significantly more expensive."

Finance Committee Chairman Dan Warriner said the Committee considered the increase with the goal of maintaining the quality and reliability of the City's water service while keeping the cost reasonable for residents. "We know any increase on a bill matters to people. At the same time, water is an essential service and we have a responsibility to make sure the City can continue providing high-quality, reliable water. The Committee, and subsequently the Common Council, approved the increase because we believe it strikes the right balance between meeting the cost of providing the service and continuing to keep water affordable for Hornell residents."

Compared with water rates around the area, Hornell's water remains affordable, and City residents continue to receive unmetered water, a very unusual benefit for a city in New York State.

A Message from the City Chamberlain

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 School** tax bills are due by **October 31, 2026** without penalty. The School tax will be collected in our office through **December 31, 2026**.
- The **2026-27 City** tax bill will continue to be collected in our office until **March 15, 2027**.

Water Bills

- Metered water bills for commercial properties are due **September 30, 2026** without penalty.
- Residential water bills are due by **October 31, 2026** without penalty.

Payment Options

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
- Payments may be placed in the drop box located on the Seneca Street side of City Hall
- Over the phone with Debit/Credit card*
- Online at [cityofhornell.gov](http://www.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 on our website:

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

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>



Codes Office Update

Did you know all Hornell City Codes are available online? All Codes are provided online through eCode360:

<https://ecode360.com/HO1346>

eCode360 provides an easy-to-read, searchable database of all Hornell City Codes available to download and/or print. Check it out!

The Hornell Codes Office would like to remind residents that discharging material into the City roadway is illegal. This includes grass, leaves, and snow. Please help keep our City streets clean, and promote water draining into our storm sewers, by ensuring yard materials stay out of the roadway.

Finally, we would also like to remind residents that mowing season comes to a close in October. State and local codes require your grass to be maintained to 9 inches and under through October 15.



Police Update

The Hornell Police Department had a busy summer season, responding to calls for service and working to keep our community safe. We would like to remind residents to follow our daily log postings, public service announcements, arrests, and warrants on our Facebook page.

Our Department was also recently awarded \$3,019.82 through the federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program to help purchase National Institute of Justice-compliant body armor for members of the Hornell Police Department. The federal program helps municipalities offset the cost of protective vests for law enforcement officers.

The Police Department also received a \$10,000 Steuben County Law Enforcement Grant to add a new high-resolution, 360-degree camera near the intersection of Seneca and State streets, in the vicinity of Hornell High School. The camera will provide live and recorded coverage of the high school, nearby streets and businesses, and portions of the surrounding neighborhood, supporting crime prevention, investigations, traffic safety, and emergency response. The camera is part of the City's existing camera system and is not affiliated with Flock or a third-party company.

Enforcement efforts have also resulted in improved compliance with recent e-bike regulations, with noticeable improvements in traffic safety and helmet use among riders. Our officers will continue to monitor and enforce regulations while promoting safe riding practices throughout the community.



News from the Assessor's Office

The City of Hornell Assessor's office would like to inform residents of the following important dates and information:

Renewal applications for **income eligible Senior Citizens** and **disabled** property owners will be mailed out to City residents in **September**. They must be returned to the Assessor's Office by **January 1, 2027**. Low-income senior and disability applications are required to be renewed annually.

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

To sign up for **STAR** or to check your status, visit www.tax.ny.gov/star or call 518-457-2036 (weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

If you are an **Honorably Discharged Veteran**, you may be eligible for a Veteran's Exemption on your taxes. Please contact the **Assessor's Office** at **607-324-7421 ext. 466** for more information.

*Please note for all of these exemptions, you must **own** the property, and it must be your **primary** and **legal** residence.*



RENTAL SCAM ALERT PROTECT YOURSELF

RED FLAGS



Out-of-Area Contacts
Claims of living out of state or overseas.



Pressure to Act Fast
Urging immediate payment to "hold" or "lock in" the unit.



Refusal to Show the Inside
Excuses for why you can't tour the interior in person.



App-Only Payments
Insisting strictly on Venmo, PayPal, Zelle, or wire transfers.



Pre-Payment Demands
Asking for application, viewing, or deposit fees before meeting.

SAFETY CHECKLIST FOR RENTERS

1

Review Property Records
Verify the true owner of the address through public land records or city assessment data before sending funds.

2

Verify the Property Manager
Hornell city law requires property managers to live within 1 hour of the property.

3

Never Pay Before Viewing
Do not send money until you physically tour the inside with a verified local representative.

4

Search Listing Photos
Run a quick reverse image search on the photos to check if they were stolen from another listing.

5

Call First
Contact the Police Department or Codes Office before sending any money if something doesn't seem right or if you have questions.

BE INFORMED. STAY ALERT. RENT SMART.

Photo (Above): The Hornell Police Department and City Codes office would like to inform residents of red flags and a checklist to help protect them against a recent and unfortunately growing scam in the area. Please don't hesitate to call the Police Department (607-324-2860) or the Codes Office (607-324-7421) before sending any money.

Water Treatment Plant Updates

The City of Hornell's Water Treatment Plant Lab is certified for bacteriological sampling, which is governed by the New York Environmental Laboratory Approval Program (ELAP). The lab was audited recently, and recertified on July 15, 2026. This biennial recertification process is extensive. The ability to complete our own testing not only saves money, but allows for quicker results. We appreciate the efforts of Chief Operator Lenny Fucci with the extensive recertification process.

With a good amount of rain this year, all three reservoirs have been full and spilling all summer. This has been great for our water treatment process.

In August, Moody Pump removed the motor and pump assembly from well #2. The pump and motor will be rebuilt and reinstalled.

In late summer, we saw the retirement of Kevin Diehl who has been with us for ten years as a 1A operator. **We wish you the best in your retirement, Kevin!**

Intermunicipal Sewer Project Secures \$500,000 Grant

The City of Hornell, in partnership with the Village of North Hornell and Town of Hornellsville, has been awarded \$500,000 in federal funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to advance the Hornell Intermunicipal Sewer Improvement Project.

The ARC funding will support the engineering and design phase of the project, moving it toward construction. "This \$500,000 grant will help us move an important regional sewer project forward," said Mayor John Buckley. "We appreciate Congressman Langworthy's partnership and commitment to Hornell."

With this award, the \$16.8 million regional project now has more than \$7.2 million in grant funding secured, nearly half of the project cost. This includes a previously awarded \$6.71 million WIIA/IMG grant from New York State.

The project will address aging wastewater infrastructure serving all three municipalities, including eight sewer pump stations and associated trunk sewer infrastructure. Additional state and federal funding is being pursued to bring the project to construction.

Photo (Right): Hornell Area Transit recently received six new transit buses. Pictured are four of the new arrivals. Buses 63-68 are the new arrivals and they hit the road in early September. These buses have been four years in the works between application, award, procurement, and production. With thanks to our Federal and State partners, there is no additional cost to local taxpayers for these buses.



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****





City of Hornell
82 Main St.
Hornell, NY 14843

Mustang Rally Returns to Hornell

The City of Hornell was excited to host the 17th Annual Mustang Rally of the Finger Lakes at Veterans Memorial Park in August. This was the second year for the event in Hornell, and 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 a fun ride to the Watkins Glen racetrack, led by the showstopping New York State Police Troop E Mustang. On Saturday, dozens of Mustangs were on display at the park. Participants, vendors, and visitors all had a great time, and we look forward to next year!



Photos (Above): A New York State Police Mustang takes to the track at Watkins Glen during the Mustang Rally's track event. The State Police Mustang was also on display at Veterans Memorial Park during the rally alongside many other Mustangs. The popular event drew participants from many parts of New York and Pennsylvania, as well as other parts of the Northeast and even Canada.

Employee Spotlight

The City of Hornell Employee Spotlight proudly shines on Rich Dunning. Rich has worked for the City of Hornell for 44 years at the Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP), serving as Chief Operator from 1991-2025.

Rich has been instrumental in his leadership at the WPCP, guiding the plant through many changes over his years of service, particularly in recent years, which have seen over \$9 million in upgrades and improvements. Phase 1a brought a new ultraviolet disinfection system to the plant, while Phase 1b included significant upgrades to equipment, controls and other infrastructure.

Mayor John Buckley highlighted Rich's dedication, hard work, knowledge, and steady hand, stating, "Rich has been a reliable Chief Operator for many years, leading the plant through many changes. In recent years, we have worked closely together, and his input has been vital with improving infrastructure and our wastewater service. I am very thankful to Rich for his many years of thoughtful, dedicated service."

Dunning stepped down as Chief Operator in 2025 and has recently retired. We wish you the best in your retirement, Rich!



Photo: (Above) Rich Dunning (left) holds the Employee Spotlight certificate with Mayor John Buckley (right). Dunning has recently retired from the WPCP.