

Upcoming Events

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

January 8 February 12
March 12 April 9

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

January 15 February 12
March 19 April 16

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

January 26 February 23
March 16 & 23 April 20

February 14, 2026

St. James Foundation: Beat the Blues Gala
The Main Place

March 14, 2026

St. Patrick's Day Parade & Celebration

April 24, 2026

Catholic Charities Steuben/Livingston
Toastings & Tastings
The Main Place

City Hall Closures

December 24 & 25.....Christmas
January 1.....New Year's Day
January 19.....Martin Luther
King Jr. Day
February 16.....Presidents' Day
April 3.....Good Friday

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK



As Christmas approaches, Hornell once again sparkles with warmth and light. The glow of decorations throughout the City, smiles on the faces of children during Hornell for the Holidays, music filling our schools and church concerts, and the joy of Christmas at the Square, all remind us what a special place our city truly is. Each glowing light and holiday wreath shines with the spirit of the season, filling our city with joy, and reminding us of generosity and togetherness. It's easy this time of year to get caught up in the excitement of gifts and gatherings. Yet, the Christmas season gently reminds us to pause and take a step back and appreciate the things in life that matter most. The beauty of the holidays isn't found in what's wrapped beneath the tree, but in the the people we share them with. It's the neighbor who lends a

a hand, the volunteers who make our celebrations possible, and the families who fill our community with love and laughter. I am continually inspired by the way our community comes together, not only during the holidays, but all year long. The same spirit that lights our streets in December shines through in every act of kindness and every smile shared between neighbors. It is this spirit of giving and caring that makes Hornell more than just a city, it makes it a family. As we close out another year, I want to thank each of you for making Hornell such a wonderful place to live, celebrate, and belong. May this season fill your homes with peace, your hearts with gratitude, and your days with joy.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

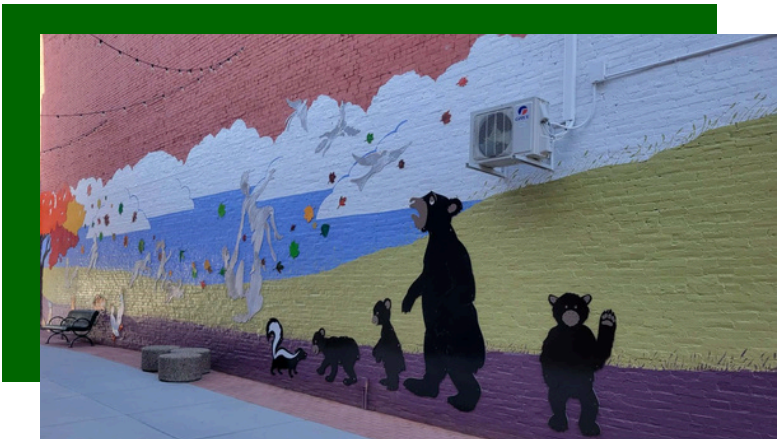


Final Art DRI Art Installation Completed

The final piece of public art through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) has been completed on Pave Alley. Artists Glenn Zwegardt and Christine Ehmann of Zwegardt Sculpture have once again brought their creative vision to Hornell, adding a fresh highlight to the City's downtown.

The mural showcases a scenic painted backdrop accented with sculpted metal animals, blending art and nature in the center of Hornell. With benches and planters throughout the area, the space is a welcoming spot to gather. Whether during the day or illuminated at night, the mural provides a beautiful backdrop for photos and is a vibrant addition to our downtown.

We extend our thanks to Glenn Zwegardt, Christine Ehmann, and their team for designing and creating this piece, and to Brian Tinker of Lion's Will for providing the wall that made this project possible.



Photos (Above): The final piece of artwork through the DRI was recently completed in Downtown Hornell. The mural was completed by Zwegardt Sculpture by artists Glenn Zwegardt and Christine Ehmann and has already captivated visitors downtown who have enjoyed posing for a photo or simply admiring the fun and colorful addition to our downtown.

City Recognizes Alderman John Carbone

The City of Hornell recently recognized 10th Ward Alderman John Carbone for his longstanding dedication to the City, honoring more than 20 years of service representing the 10th Ward.

Mayor John Buckley expressed his appreciation, stating, "John Carbone has provided steady leadership for the City over the years, and I value his thoughtfulness and contributions as Alderman. He is Chairman of the Planning and Development and Audit Committees, demonstrating leadership in these vital areas, and also serves on the board for the Hornell Industrial Development Agency (IDA)."

Mayor Buckley further highlights Carbone's community commitment: "Beyond his official duties, John's dedication to our community is shown through his work at the Main Place, where he facilitates and hosts events that help define our community, such as St. Patrick's Day and New Year's celebrations, as well as many other community gatherings. I deeply appreciate all John does to make a real difference for the people of Hornell."

While much has changed over the past two decades, the City of Hornell remains grateful for his steady leadership and looks forward to his continued service.



Photo (Above): Alderman John Carbone (right) stands with Mayor John Buckley (left) as he is recognized for more than 20 years of service to the City of Hornell's 10th Ward.



Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works has wrapped up another successful summer and fall season and is now prepared for the winter months here in the City of Hornell. With plow trucks ready and road salt stocked, the DPW is set for when Old Man Winter comes to town!

A friendly reminder to all residents to not place snow in the road. Depositing grass, debris, or snow into the roadway is illegal and can result in a ticket. It also creates drainage problems and hazards for everyone using the road.

While we understand limitations with parking, we ask that residents remove vehicles parked on the street during snow and ice events when able. This will improve clearing the snow from the roadways, as well as decrease risk to your vehicle during slippery and snowy conditions.

Arbor Day is approaching in April. If you would like information about having a tree planted in front of your home, please contact the City Clerk's Office to learn more and to possibly be added to the list.

A big "Thank You" to the DPW for all of their hard work decorating and beautifying the City's downtown and Union Square Park!

Progress Continues with WPCP Phase 1B

The \$6.5 million Phase 1B project at the Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) continues to make progress.

The WPCP recently installed a new emergency generator that is capable of running all of the equipment at the sewage plant. Inside the plant, updates to the doors and ventilation system are nearly complete, and when finished will provide a safe and healthy working environment for the operators at the plant.

Next up for Phase 1b, we are expecting delivery of the raw sewage pumps in late fall or early winter. These three pumps will replace some 50 year old equipment and should be a significant improvement from our current equipment. The operators at the plant have been busy working with the construction crew to devise an alternate pumping system to be deployed while each pump, motor, and valve in the system is replaced.

To make the alternative system work, the mechanical contractor J.W. Danforth will rent 2 very large pumps which will run outside the plant, and keep the wastewater moving, while the old pumps are removed and replaced with new pumps individually. Each pump replacement is scheduled to take a month to complete. We are hopeful to complete the \$6.5 million project by February 2026.

Meet the DPW: Dan "Smitty" Smith



Photo (Left): Dan "Smitty" Smith is a true jack-of-all-trades for the City of Hornell Department of Public Works. He stays busy year-round, whether he is painting, mowing the parks, or driving the snow plow. Smitty does it all and always with a smile. He has been with the department for 14 years. Thank you for all you do, Smitty!

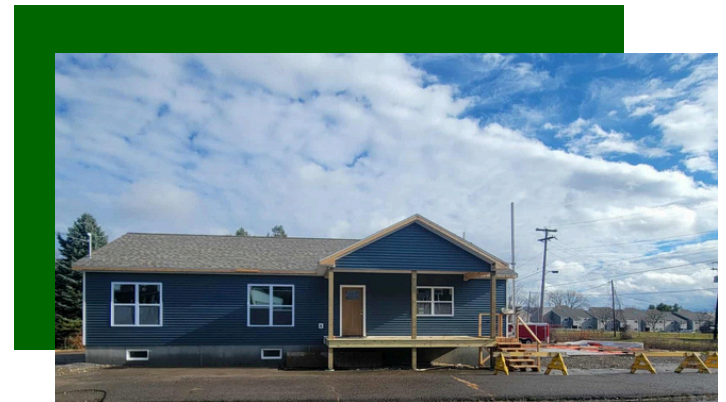


Photo (Above): Steady progress continues on the latest house built in partnership with GST BOCES. This 14th house from the collaboration is on Canisteo Street, with most of the exterior now complete. On the right side of the house, work has initiated on the garage structure.



Photo (Above): The new salt truck is on the way to the City of Hornell. The truck arrives just in time to help take on the winter season!



From the Fire Department

The Hornell Fire Department wishes everyone a safe and fun holiday season. As we close in for the winter, we have compiled some helpful tips.

To ensure winter house safety and prevent fires, please be mindful to keep heat sources away from flammable materials. Also, be sure to check that you have working carbon monoxide and smoke detectors, and winterize your home to prevent frozen pipes and improve insulation. We recommend everyone prepare an emergency kit with food, water, and necessary supplies in the event of power outages. Below are additional winter fire prevention tips:

Winter Fire Prevention Tips

- Keep space heaters, fireplaces, and wood burning stoves at least three feet away from anything that can burn, such as curtains, furniture, and bedding.
- Never use a gas or charcoal grill indoors, or use a stove/oven to heat your home.
- Always use a glass or metal screen for fireplaces and never leave a fire unattended.
- Turn off space heaters before going to sleep or leaving a room.
- Ensure furnaces, chimneys, and vents are professionally inspected and cleaned annually.
- Generators should only be used outdoors and far from windows and doors.
- During the holiday season, please be careful with electrical devices, especially with the use of plug strips. Make sure they are UL approved and rated for their use.

Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Detectors

- Install and test carbon monoxide and smoke detectors on every level of your home, **especially near sleeping areas.**
- Ensure detectors have battery backups and check their batteries regularly.

Congratulations to Firefighter Austin Wheatcraft on his fire academy graduation from the New York State Fire Academy. Wheatcraft's 12 weeks of training will be put in service on Shift #1 as Firefighter/EMT.

Finally, the Hornell Fire and EMS completed their fall training as part of their ongoing certifications. The fall training focus was on vehicle fires, as well as vehicle rescue and extrication. As vehicles change and update, new challenges are faced every year and this training is helpful to remain prepared. The Fire department also completed a hazmat drill with St. James Hospital monitored by Dr. P. Toomey of University of Rochester Emergency Medicine.

Wishing you and your family's a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

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



Follow us on Facebook!



Photo (Above): Captain Jordan Pelton (left) and Fire Chief Frank Brzozowski (right) stand with Firefighter Austin Wheatcraft following Wheatcraft's completion of the Fire Academy this fall.



Photo (Above): Firefighters complete fall training with a focus on vehicle fires, as well as vehicle rescue and extrication. Training such as this is critical in staying prepared and up-to-date to ensure optimal response outcomes.

City of Hornell Receives A+ Financial Audit

The Common Council met for their September meeting and received the annual audit review from Erica Handley of Drescher & Malecki LLC. The review encompassed the City's governmental funds, including the City's Water and General funds. Overall, the City was provided with an A+ letter grade assigned to the audit

Mayor John Buckley noted, "Residents expect local government to manage finances successfully, and we are proud of our series of clean audits. The health of the City's finances is in good shape, with revenues slightly exceeding expenditures. I would like to extend my appreciation to Michele Smith, City Chamberlain, as well as the Finance Committee, City department heads, and the Common Council for their hard work day in and day out to ensure we maintain a sound financial outlook."

During the audit presentation, Handley provided a ten-year lookback of the City's general fund revenues and expenditures. The review showed a significant rise in expenditures beginning in 2021 following the pandemic. The City was able to keep pace with those expenses and add to the fund balance. This includes the unrestricted fund balance, which is a crucial piece to ensure the City remains financially strong, stable, and able to weather unexpected challenges.

City Chamberlain Michele Smith emphasized the broader importance of the audit results, stating, "Responsible financial management is essential to ensuring residents can rely on stable services today, as well as into the future. This successful audit review reflects the dedication of everyone who helps keep the City's finances strong for the community."



Photo (Above): Erica Handley of Drescher & Malecki LLC (standing) presents the City of Hornell's audit to the Common Council at the September meeting, as Mayor John Buckley and City Clerk Holly Snyder listen closely.

A Message from the City Chamberlain

City Receives Clean Audit for Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2025

Drescher & Malecki, LLP recently completed the City's annual independent audit for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025. The audit resulted in a clean, unmodified opinion, indicating that the City's financial statements fairly present its financial position in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

The audit found no major issues or weaknesses, demonstrating the City's continued commitment to fiscal responsibility, sound financial management, and public transparency. The City has also maintained a stable fund balance, reflecting prudent financial planning and oversight.

The full audit report is available for public review on the City's website at cityofhornell.gov.

City Chamberlain's Office – Tax and Payment Information

The City Chamberlain's Office is responsible for collecting taxes, water bills, garbage bills, and other payments. Please review the following important dates and payment options:

Tax Collection Dates

- The 2026 County tax bills will be mailed by the end of December and are due by January 31, 2026 without penalty.
- The last day to pay the 2025-2026 School tax in our office is December 31, 2025.
- The 2025-2026 City tax bill is being collected in our office until March 16, 2026.

Water Bills

- Metered water bills for commercial properties have been recently mailed and are due by December 31, 2025 without penalty.

Payment Options

Payments can be made in the following ways:

- In person at City Hall, 82 Main St.
- By mail to: City of Hornell, PO Box 627, Hornell, NY 14843
- Drop box located on the Seneca Street side of City Hall
- By phone with debit/credit card*
- Online at cityofhornell.gov with debit/credit card or E-check*. Online tax payments are only available until the due date, before any penalties have been added. Online water and solid waste payments are available at any time.

*Any payment made using 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, under the City Chamberlain's page.



Police Update

On November 11, 2025, the Hornell Police Department, along with many other agencies throughout Steuben County, transitioned to a new computer-based report-writing system. This system allows the Hornell Police to interface with and share law enforcement information across the county. It replaces our prior system with one that is more efficient, resulting in more detailed and accurate reports. The new system also integrates with many existing departmental programs.

The department would like to thank Sgt. Ryan Harrison and Sgt. Daniel Murray, who led the implementation of the new system and conducted staff training that made this change possible.

We are also moving forward with the updating of our new community-wide camera program. This program will replace more than a dozen cameras throughout the City with new day and night-vision, which will be monitored at our dispatch center. Special thanks to our IT Specialist Ed Flaitz, who has been instrumental in both of these initiatives.



Photo (Above): The Hornell Police Department's dispatch area was recently updated. Updates include new flooring and protective glass at the window, as well as an improved monitoring system tied to the City camera program. This system allows live monitoring of the City's 12 new cameras, installed thanks to grant funding from the State of New York through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program.



Codes Office Update

The Codes Office would like to remind residents it is **illegal to shovel snow into the road** and **sidewalks must be cleared of any snow and ice following a winter storm**.

We would also like to remind all residents, that any contractors performing work within the City must first obtain a Contractor's Permit. All permits expire on **December 31, 2025**, and **contractors are encouraged to complete their applications for the 2026 year**.

We are excited to share that updates to the City's Code have been recently completed. Many updates involve the repeal of antiquated practices, while others involve updated language to reflect modern times. All of the City's codes can be found online at: <https://ecode360.com/HO1346>. The new updates are being processed and will be available online in the new year.

Finally, we would like to share that you can find a wealth of information on the Code Enforcement tab of the City's website or by this direct link:

<https://www.cityofhornell.gov/code-of-enforcement>

Applications for permits, including building and fence permits, as well as specifications for driveways, pools, signs, and more, are available here. Please feel free to call our office if you have any questions before starting your project; we will be happy to help. Wishing you and your families a happy and safe holiday season.



News from the Assessor's Office

City of Hornell Assessor, Cindy Burdell, announces that **Renewal Applications** for the Partial Tax Exemption for Senior Citizens and Disabled property owners with limited income have been mailed to Hornell City residents.

Applications were mailed in September and must be returned to the Assessor's Office by **January 1, 2026**.

To request an application, please call: **607-324-7421 Ext. 466** during City Hall business hours.

Reminder for **Enhanced STAR**:

- If your primary residence is in the **City of Hornell**, you will become **65 anytime in 2026**, and your 2025 income is **\$107,000 or less**, you may qualify for the Enhanced STAR exemption. This exemption only applies to your school taxes; it does not apply to County or City taxes.
- If you already have an existing STAR Basic exemption, you do not need to reapply for Enhanced STAR. The State of New York will provide an update to you in 2026 if you qualify.

A reminder that new STAR recipients will receive a check directly from New York State instead of receiving a school property tax exemption. The amount of the benefit is the same. To be eligible for a STAR check, you must register with the New York State Tax Department by visiting <http://www.tax.ny.gov> or by calling **518-457-2036**.

The Hornell City Assessment update will be completed by the end of 2025, with notices mailed in January 2026.

Connect with the City Clerk

Contractor's Permit Reminder

The City Clerk would also like to remind all residents and business owners that any contractor performing work within City limits must first obtain a Contractor's Permit.

To secure a permit, contractors are required to:

- Complete a Contractor's Permit Application. This is available on our City website at: <https://www.cityofhornell.gov/permits-and-licenses>
- Provide a valid photo identification.
- Undergo police background check
- Submit proof of liability insurance and Workers' Compensation Insurance
- Pay the \$5.00 Annual Permit Fee

Please note that all Contractor's Permits expire on December 31 each year. Contractors are encourage to renew promptly to stay in compliance with City regulations.

For questions or assistance with the permit process, please contact the City Clerk's Office; we're always happy to help!



Photo (Above): Hornell Area Concern for Youth (HACFY) was recently recognized for 50 years of service. HACFY's mission is to meet the needs of youth in Hornell and the surrounding areas by providing comprehensive prevention programs. These programs include counseling services, prevention education, skill-building activities, mentoring programs, and the operation of youth centers. Mayor John Buckley stated, "HACFY is a fantastic resource for our youth to provide them with additional support and resources, all while having a good time. For HACFY to provide 50 years of service to our community and the surrounding area illustrates astounding commitment to generations in our area. I want to extend my appreciation and gratitude on achieving this milestone and look forward to many more years."

Board of Directors Member, Victoria Nichols (left) was on hand with Executive Director, Susan Hooker (center) to receive the recognition from Mayor John Buckley (right).



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****

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>



City of Hornell
82 Main St.
Hornell, NY 14843

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Hornell For the Holidays

The Hornell for the Holidays celebration kicked off on November 29, 2025, with the annual Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting. The recent snow added to the picturesque scenes of the magical parade, while families and friends enjoyed and sang along with choirs from the Hornell High School and Intermediate School, before Santa lit the City's beautiful tree. A wonderful time was had by all!



Photo (Above): The first car of the parade makes its way down Main Street as visitors enjoy the parade!
Photo credit to PEISH.



Photo (Above): Santa waves to the crowd as the last car in the parade before making his way to light the Christmas tree.

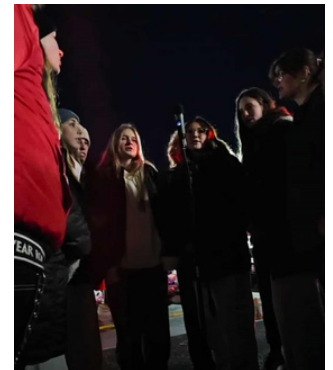


Photo (Above): Members of the Hornell High School Show Choir sing together with the crowd prior to the tree lighting.



Photo (Above): A large crowd forms in front of the Christmas tree as hundreds gather for the annual tree lighting event. Photo credit to PEISH.

Photo (Right): After the crowd excitedly counts down and with some Christmas magic, Santa lights the City of Hornell's Christmas tree for the 2025 holiday season!

