



The Town of
New Hartford

Town Hall Highlights



September 2026 Highlights

*From the office of James Messa,
New Hartford Town Supervisor*

Since taking office in January, I have focused on a number of important issues facing our community. One area I have written about extensively is the Town's finances.

Financials

As many of you know, the Town had not filed its Annual Financial Report (AFR) since 2022. This resulted in the Town's bond rating being withdrawn and placed New Hartford on credit watch.

In February 2026, I signed off on our 2023 AFR, followed by the 2024 AFR in August. During the first week of October, I expect to receive the final draft of our 2025 AFR.

This progress is significant. One of the primary responsibilities of the Town Supervisor is overseeing the Town's finances and serving as its Chief Financial Officer. Without completed financial reports, you do not have a complete picture of where the Town's funds and fund balances stand.

Simply put, it is like not balancing your own checkbook and not truly knowing how much money you have available. There is no substitute for having accurate financial reports prepared and reviewed by an independent auditing firm.

Once the 2025 AFR is completed, the next step will be to begin the process of restoring the Town's bond rating. Without a bond rating, the Town may face higher borrowing costs and interest rates, and it can also affect how businesses and investors view New Hartford.

Most importantly, this is our town. It is important to me that we strengthen our financial position and continue putting New Hartford in the best possible position moving forward.

Senior Center Update

We recently held our first informational meeting regarding bringing a senior community center back to New Hartford, and we were extremely encouraged by the number of people who came forward willing to volunteer.

We are now identifying volunteer skills and interests as we work toward an official opening date. Our goal is to begin meetings and activities before the end of the year.

One thing is certain: our seniors will have an opportunity to come together, socialize, build friendships, and strengthen connections within our community.

Stormwater and Oneida Street

A tremendous amount of work is taking place on Upper Roman Road and Twyndom Road as we complete two retention ponds expected to benefit more than 100 homes, including homes within Castlewood Estates.

We are also replacing stormwater pipes near Red Hill Road and Frank's Unibody. Oneida Street has remained milled while this work continues, and I sincerely appreciate everyone's patience.

This fall, we will also begin preparing a bid package for additional work in the Chadwicks corridor and may host informational sessions to explain our plans, answer questions, and hear residents' concerns.

Thank you for your continued patience, involvement, and commitment to our community.



Highway Department News

*Submitted by: Richard Sherman,
Highway Superintendent*

October is here and as a reminder, the Town Highway Department has started picking up leaves. With that being said, please do not put leaves in plastic bags or containers. Place the leaves at the curb, so that our leaf vac trucks can pick them up. There is a leaf truck in each town ward, so that they can be picked up in a timely manner. Once the leaves start falling steadily, the trucks will be out every single day. Please don't mix the leaf piles with other debris like sticks, dirt, rocks, brush, and pumpkins.

The Brush Collection is finished for the 2026 season. We will not be picking up any trees or brush until next season. The compactor trucks will still be out to pick up the green waste, for things like flowers and grass clippings.

The town continues to work on the Oneida Street paving project. Concrete joints have been repaired. Our engineers are working on specifications for future Bids on sidewalks and curbing.

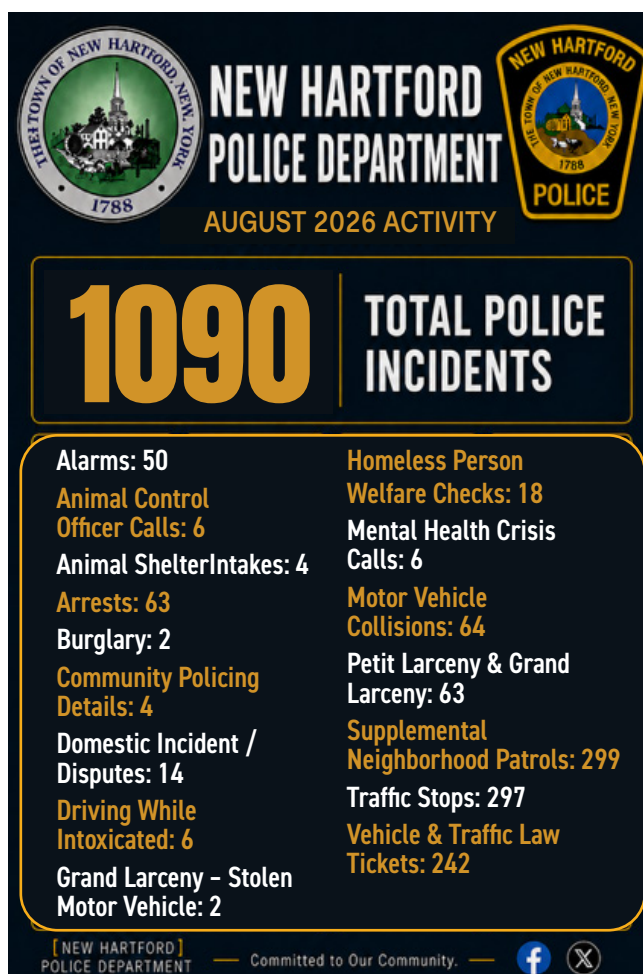
The Washington Mills intersection project is steadily progressing. Concrete sidewalks have been finished and new cross walk signals have been installed and are operational. We appreciate everyone's patience while we worked to improve our town.

The Rayhill Trail Project is still in progress, with two flood benches having been completed.

Our highway crew completed the work on the Roman Road Detention Ponds. We have assisted the contractor through the project with things such as hauling away dirt to get this job completed.

The Highway trucks are being serviced and prepped with plows, wings and hoppers being installed for the 2026-2027 winter season. We currently have 5 plow trucks in our fleet ready to go for this upcoming season.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns you can contact me at 315-534-2998 or rsherman@townofnewhartfordny.gov.



Town Clerk's Office Reports Increase in FOIL Requests

Submitted by: Michele Moran

The Town Clerk's Office continues to process a growing number of requests under New York State's Freedom of Information Law (FOIL), which provides the public with access to existing government records while balancing legal requirements for privacy and confidentiality.

As of September 14, 2026, the Town Clerk has received 125 FOIL requests, already surpassing the 100 requests received during all of 2025. The increase reflects continued public interest in local government operations and records maintained by the Town.

Upon receipt of a FOIL request, the Town Clerk's Office acknowledges the request and coordinates with the appropriate departments, officials, and records custodians to identify responsive documents. Records are then reviewed in accordance with the New York Public Officers Law to determine whether disclosure is required or whether portions of a record may be withheld or redacted under applicable exemptions. FOIL applies to existing records maintained by the Town. The law does not require the creation of new documents, preparation of legal opinions, interpretation of records, or responses to questions that seek explanations rather than identifiable records.

"The Town Clerk's Office remains committed to transparency and to ensuring that requests are processed in accordance with New York State law," said Town Clerk Michele Moran. "As request volumes continue to increase, our staff works diligently with departments and legal counsel to provide public access to records while protecting information that is exempt from disclosure."

Residents seeking information about the FOIL process or wishing to submit a request may contact the Town Clerk's Office for assistance.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

OCTOBER MEETING SCHEDULE

Town Board Meeting	Oct. 7, 21	6:00pm
Planning Board Meeting	Oct. 12	5:30pm
ZBA Meeting	Oct. 19	6:00pm
Stormwater Committee Meeting	Oct. 14	6:00pm

Schedule subject to change.
Visit the website for schedules, agendas and minutes.

LIVE-STREAMED Town Board Meetings

SCAN THE CODE and Click "LIVE" tab.

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