

CITY OF ONEIDA

FEBRUARY EDITION 2026

Newsletter

Moving forward in the new year

As February settles in, we are reminded that even in the heart of winter, Oneida continues to move forward with strength, resilience, and a shared sense of community. Our city is built on the dedication of its residents, the commitment of its businesses, and the pride we all take in calling Oneida home.

This month is a time to reflect on the progress we are making together—supporting local businesses, investing in our neighborhoods, and working collaboratively to enhance the quality of life for everyone. Each small step, each act of involvement, and each show of support contributes to a stronger, more vibrant city.

We are grateful for the patience, hard work, and optimism you bring to Oneida every day. As we look ahead to the months to come, let us continue to build on our shared values of cooperation, progress, and community spirit. Together, we are shaping a future that honors our history while embracing new opportunities.

Thank you for being an essential part of Oneida's story.



Stay informed, subscribe now for our email notifications: contact slapera@oneidacityny.com

MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

As we move into February, I want to reflect on what has already been an eventful start to 2026 for the City of Oneida. The past several weeks have demonstrated, once again, the strength of our people, the resilience of our infrastructure, and our unwavering commitment to serving not only our residents but our neighbors across the region.

Oneida Steps Up to Support OCWA

In January, communities across Onondaga and Madison Counties faced a significant water system disruption following a major break in an OCWA transmission main. During this period, Oneida immediately activated our emergency interconnect and began supplying water to help stabilize the regional system. At points, this support approached nearly 800,000 gallons per day, providing critical relief and ensuring residents in affected areas continued to have reliable access to clean, safe water. Independent testing confirmed that water supplied from Oneida met all quality standards.

This response reflects exactly who we are as a city. When others are in need, Oneida stands ready—not only for ourselves, but for our entire region.

Welcoming a New Common Council

This month also marks the first full cycle of work with our newly seated Common Council. I would like to extend my appreciation to each of our elected members for their engagement, professionalism, and commitment to the responsibilities entrusted to them. The energy and collaboration already taking shape show tremendous promise for the months ahead.

We will continue to prioritize open communication, thoughtful policy development, and sound financial stewardship as we pursue the goals that matter most to our residents: strengthening neighborhoods, investing in infrastructure, supporting public safety, and advancing the long-term prosperity of our community.

Historic Winter Weather and an Extraordinary DPW Response

Oneida has experienced snowfall levels not seen in nearly a decade, and the storms of recent weeks have tested every facet of our public works system. I want to take a moment to publicly recognize the outstanding performance of our Department of Public Works.

These men and women have worked around the clock—plowing through the night, salting before most residents are awake, responding to emergencies in whiteout conditions, and ensuring that our roads, facilities, and municipal operations remain safe and functional. Their dedication has been visible in every cleared street and every restored route.

Our DPW did not simply respond. They delivered. They protected this community with professionalism, stamina, and a commitment worthy of sincere appreciation.

Looking Ahead

As we continue through the winter and into early spring, I remain confident in the path we are forging together. Our team, our Council, and our residents have already shown what can be accomplished when we stay focused, communicate openly, and work side by side.

Thank you for your continued trust in our leadership and for your ongoing commitment to making Oneida a strong, vibrant, and resilient place to call home.

*Warm regards,
Kyle P. Lovell*



February Meetings

City meetings are open to the public, and residents are encouraged to attend and stay informed about local matters.

Common Council-Feb. 3, 6:30pm

Water Board-Feb. 10-3:30pm

Planning Board-Feb. 10-6:00pm

Rec. Commission-Feb. 12-6:30pm

Common Council-Feb. 17-6:30pm



Oneida City Hall
109 N. Main St.–Oneida

Recreation Meetings:
217 Cedar St.

Employment Opportunities



HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

JESSICA KAISER

jkaiser@oneidacityny.gov

315-363-2022, Ext. 133

oneidacityny.gov/jobs

OPEN POSITIONS:

- DPW Laborer with CDL

The City of Oneida is a place where public service truly matters, and working here provides a unique sense of pride in helping strengthen the community and its future.



ASSESSMENT NEWS

SENIOR EXEMPTIONS



Senior Exemption forms have recently been mailed by the City of Oneida Assessor's Office. These forms are due no later than **May 1, 2026**.

When applying, please be sure to bring your **2025** Federal or NYS Income Tax forms to verify eligibility for the Senior Tax Exemption.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Please note that we have limited hours for the Assessor's Department.

Residents who need to speak to someone, please come during the following hours:

Monday 8:00am - 12:00pm
Wednesday 8:00am - 12:00pm
Thursday 9:00am - 12:00pm



Did You Know?

The new city website now offers a Business Directory—designed to connect residents with local businesses. Some restrictions apply. Visit the Business Directory page for details.

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY!

www.oneidacityny.gov/business



IN LOVING MEMORY

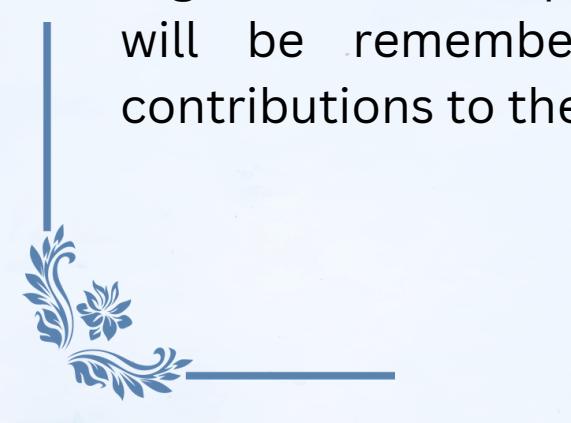
Gone from Our Sight, but Never from
Our Hearts

James Chappell

December 25, 1948-December 25, 2025



James “Deacon Jim” Chappell devoted his life to public service and the City of Oneida, serving as Ward 2 Councilor and later as Mayor from 2000 to 2003. Under his leadership, the City secured more than \$3 million in grants supporting infrastructure improvements, economic development, public safety, parks and recreation, and housing rehabilitation. He took great pride in the acquisition of the Armory, now a vibrant community and recreation center, and in the development of the Oneida Business Park. In addition, Deacon Jim served as Fire Chaplain for the Oneida Fire Department and remained active in local civic organizations. He passed away on December 25, 2025, and will be remembered for his dedication and lasting contributions to the City.





DAVID JONES PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSIONER

The City of Oneida extends its sincere gratitude to Public Safety Commissioner Dave Jones for his dedicated service to the city. Throughout his tenure, Commissioner Jones demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the safety, well-being, and integrity of our community. His steady leadership, depth of knowledge, and willingness to mentor others strengthened not only the departments he oversaw, but the people within them. He led by example, earning respect through professionalism, fairness, and a genuine concern for both residents and staff. The lasting impact of his dedication will continue to be felt for years to come, and the City is truly thankful for his service.





MEET THE TEAM

On January 4, 2026, city officials were sworn in for a two-year term. Led by Mayor Rick Rossi and working in partnership with City Manager Kyle Lovell, and supported by City Attorney Nadine Bell in providing legal guidance and ensuring compliance with state and local law, the new Council is committed to collaboration, fresh ideas, and strengthening transparency and accountability across city government.

With this new Council in place, the City of Oneida is focused on moving forward through thoughtful planning, open communication, and responsible governance. Priorities include strengthening transparency and public engagement, modernizing policies and procedures, supporting responsible economic development, investing in infrastructure and public safety, and working collaboratively with staff, boards, and community partners to enhance quality of life for residents and businesses alike.

City Officials United for Progress

The Common Council meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in Common Council Chambers. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend meetings and get involved.

City Manager Kyle Lovell serves as the City's Chief Administrative Officer, overseeing the day-to-day operations of city government and carrying out the policies and direction set by the Common Council. He works closely with department heads to ensure efficient service delivery, sound fiscal management, and long-term planning that supports the City's goals. Mr. Lovell is accessible and welcomes communication from residents, businesses, and community partners, reinforcing a commitment to openness, responsiveness, and effective local government.

For contact information, agendas and meeting information, please visit the city website at www.oneidacityny.gov.

Pictured above are Mayor Rick Rossi; Deputy Mayor and Ward 6 Councilor Tom Simchik; Ward 5 Councilor Bill Pagano; Ward 4 Councilor Janet Jones; Ward 3 Councilor Nathan Smith; Ward 2 Councilor Dave Cimpi; Ward 1 Councilor Lynne McHugh; City Manager Kyle Lovell; and City Attorney Nadine Bell.



NOAH
COGHLAN

THE JOURNEY

ULTRA RUNNER NOAH COGHLAN, 41, OF CALIFORNIA-CURRENTLY RESIDING IN TENNESSEE, IS ON AN EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY ACROSS AMERICA, HONORING THE STRENGTH, RESILIENCE, AND STORIES OF EVERYDAY AMERICANS AND OUR VETERANS. ON JANUARY 9, NOAH VISITED THE TROOP D BARRACKS AND MET WITH THE CITIZENS OF ONEIDA. WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT HIM AS PART OF HIS 5,500-MILE RUN THROUGH 20 STATES, WHICH WILL CONCLUDE ON JULY 4, 2026—THE 250TH BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES.

WELCOME TO ONEIDA



Follow Noah's journey on
[Facebook!](#)



Oneida City School District

January 9 at 10:00 AM · 

...

Dear Oneida Families and Community Members,

I am pleased to share some very encouraging news regarding Oneida High School and our long-awaited return to the building.

Thanks to steady progress and the dedication of many professionals working around the clock, we are excited to announce that, assuming no unexpected challenges arise, we will be able to return to Oneida High School sooner than originally anticipated. After months of extensive repairs, inspections, and coordination, we are now preparing to welcome students and staff back into the building.

This milestone did not happen by chance, nor did it happen quickly. Reopening a facility of this size requires careful planning, multiple layers of review, and constant collaboration across many fields.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to our partners at King + King Architects, C&S Engineers, National Grid, our construction teams, and the many inspectors and specialists who dedicated countless hours to this project. I am also deeply grateful to our own facilities, operations, and administrative staff, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes every single day to move this work forward.

Throughout this entire process, one thing never changed: our unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of our students and staff. No shortcuts were taken. Every step toward reopening was carefully reviewed, verified, and approved through appropriate oversight and professional accountability.

Staff and students will fully occupy Oneida High School building beginning on Monday, January 26, 2026. This timing provides a natural transition point, allowing students to return focused on their academics following the conclusion of the 1st semester, without disruption as they begin the next phase of the school year.

Please be on the lookout for informational updates pertaining to athletics, transportation routing, and scheduling in the coming days and weeks.

We are truly looking forward to welcoming our students back into Oneida High School and resuming the important work of teaching and learning together in our community.

Thank you for your continued patience, trust, and support throughout this process.

Matthew Carpenter
Superintendent of Schools

Recycling in Madison County



PAPER RECYCLABLES:

Newspaper Cardboard Paper Mail & Envelopes



NOT ACCEPTED: refrigerated boxes, coffee cups, egg cartons (paper, plastic or styrofoam), clothing or other textiles

CONTAINER RECYCLABLES:

Plastic Bottles & Jugs
Plastic Yogurt & Dairy Tubs
Metal Containers
Glass Bottles & Jars



NOT ACCEPTED: plastic clamshell and take-out containers, plastic bags, black plastic containers, plastic cups, pots & pans

Learn about Madison County's two-bin recycling program by using our online "How Do I Recycle/Dispose of..." search tool at: www.MadisonCountyRecycles.ny.gov



Research



RePlay Game



Reminders



Recovery Facilities



Resources



Requests

Type the name of a waste item and we'll tell you how to recycle or dispose of it.

Search

Madison County uses a dual-stream recycling system—so remember: recyclables must be loose, never bagged! Reducing waste and recycling correctly helps our community and environment.

Put bottles, cans, jugs, jars, and foil in the containers bin. The numbers on plastics are resin codes, not recycling rules—shape matters more than numbers. Paper and cardboard go in the mixed paper bin. Envelopes with plastic windows and clean pizza boxes are okay (just remove liners).

Always follow your hauler's guidance, as recycling rules may differ depending on where materials are processed.

For access to the search tool, click [HERE](http://www.MadisonCountyRecycles.ny.gov)

Cornell Cooperative Extension Madison County

For Immediate Release:

1/13/2025

100 Eaton St.
Morrisville, NY 13408
TEL: 315-684-3001
FAX: 315-684-9290
madison@cornell.edu

For more information, contact:

Sarah Steele, Tax Counseling for the Elderly Coordinator
315-684-3001
sgs65@cornell.edu

Morrisville: Free Tax Prep for Seniors: Schedule Your Appointment Today

The Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program, offered through Cornell Cooperative Extension Madison County, is providing free tax preparation services for seniors aged 60 and older, as well as individuals with disabilities. Our certified volunteers are dedicated to helping seniors navigate the tax preparation process with ease.

Program Details:

- Operating Dates: January 27 to April 15, 2025

How to Schedule an Appointment:

- For Oneida: Call (315) 750-2204
- For Canastota and Chittenango: Call (315) 750-2638
- For Cazenovia, Hamilton, and Morrisville: Call (315) 630-0884

In addition to staffed sites, the CCE Madison Ag Business Center in Morrisville will offer facilitated self-assistance. Seniors can complete their own returns using IRS software on CCE Madison's computers at no cost, with a certified volunteer available to assist and answer questions. The Center will be open on Mondays from noon to 3 p.m. starting February 3 through April 14, 2025, and on the following Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon: February 8, March 8, and April 12, 2025. No appointments are required for this option. Individuals can also file taxes for free online at IRS Direct File or IRS Free File.

For additional questions, please contact Sarah Steele, TCE coordinator, at (315) 684-3001 ext. 101 or sgs65@cornell.edu.

Get Involved

This program is offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension Madison County in partnership with the IRS and a dedicated group of certified volunteers. To become a certified volunteer in future tax seasons, please email madison@cornell.edu.

About Cornell Cooperative Extension Madison County

Cornell Cooperative Extension Madison County has been fostering economic vitality, ecological sustainability, and social well-being since 1917. By combining local experience with Cornell research, CCE delivers practical resources and educational programs to support sustainable agriculture, youth empowerment, and thriving communities. Engaging with residents to meet evolving needs, CCE has positively impacted agriculture, environment, health, and community development for over 105 years.

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

DO YOU HAVE A HEALTH OR SAFETY HAZARD IN YOUR HOME?



HEALTHY **@** HOME

If you are a Madison County low-income renter or home owner with a health or safety hazard, this program may be able to help you with home repairs.*

We may be able to help with:

- ✓ door and window repairs
- ✓ small kitchen repairs
- ✓ small roof repairs
- ✓ accessible tubs and showers
- ✓ grab bars

AND MORE...



Call 315-280-0889
to learn more about the program

Priority is given to households with a child under the age of 18, adult age 62 or older, or person with a disability.

***Modular and mobile homes are not eligible.**
Additional eligibility requirements apply.



Community Action Partnership

www.capmadco.org



WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Weatherization Assistance Program helps lower energy costs for income-eligible households



WEATHERIZATION

- helps reduce energy costs;
- conserves energy;
- increases comfort in the home;
- improves safety and health standards;
- preserves housing;
- and provides jobs.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

1. An application is submitted to the local service provider to determine program eligibility;
2. An energy audit of the home is conducted to identify needs;
3. The home is weatherized; and
4. Home is inspected to assure quality of work completed.

WHAT SERVICES ARE INCLUDED?

Services may include but are not limited to:

- sealing of cracks and holes to reduce heat loss;
- insulation of attics and walls;
- heating system repairs or replacement;
- providing efficient lighting and refrigeration;
- window and/or outside door repair or replacement;
- minor repairs which are needed to ensure maximum efficiency of the weatherization services performed; and
- mitigation of energy-related health and safety issues.

WHO DOES THE WORK?

Program services are delivered through NYS Homes and Community Renewal's (HCR) statewide network of local service providers who may use their own licensed crews or hire local private contractors to perform the work.

WHAT IS THE QUALITY OF THE MATERIALS USED?

HCR requires providers to purchase and use materials that meet state and federal government standards. HCR offers providers training in quality control and material use.

IS THERE A CHARGE FOR WEATHERIZATION SERVICES?

All services are provided without cost to the occupant of the home. However, owners of rental buildings must invest funds toward the cost of weatherization services performed on their property.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR WEATHERIZATION SERVICES?

Eligibility is based on household income relative to federal low-income guidelines. If a household contains a member who receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Public Assistance, or Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) benefits, the household may be considered automatically eligible for weatherization services.

ARE RENTERS ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICES?

Yes. Applications are accepted from renters, homeowners, and rental property owners.

WHAT TYPE OF HOME IS ELIGIBLE?

A manufactured or single-family home, an apartment building, group homes and a single room occupied as separate living quarters are all eligible.

CAN THE WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HELP ME FIND OTHER SOURCES OF ENERGY AID?

Yes. Local providers are knowledgeable in the assistance programs from NYSERDA, the Office for Temporary and Disability Assistance, and gas and electric utility companies. Weatherization staff may help you apply for grants or loans from these agencies and others.

WHO FUNDS THE WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM?

HCR's Weatherization Assistance Program is funded by the US Department of Energy. In addition, HCR receives funds for Weatherization activities from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services through the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

HOW CAN I APPLY?

Contact a local service provider in your county for program information and an application.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit HCR's website at hcr.ny.gov. Click "Homeownership" and then "Homeowners" scroll down to "Weatherization." You can also contact the HCR Regional Office which serves your county.

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS listed on back.



We are EnergySmart CNY

Serving Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, and Oswego Counties



Connecting to a clean energy future!

- Connections to programs and contractors to help improve the comfort and health of homes and buildings, reducing energy bills and emissions.
- One-on-one assistance in navigating the many programs and incentives, for owners and tenants of all income levels.
- Training and employment opportunities in the rapidly growing clean energy field - jobs that are good for people and the environment.
- Clean Heat Workshops and Energy Literacy Trainings

About Us

EnergySmart CNY is a NYSERDA-supported project of the CNY Regional Planning and Development Board, Alliance for a Green Economy, and Greater Syracuse Works. We work to connect communities with the growing opportunities in the clean energy economy, including jobs, energy efficiency improvements to their homes or buildings - and solar & heat pumps where appropriate.

CONTACT:

✉ ADVISOR@ENERGYSMARTCNY.ORG
☎ 315-313-5050
❤ WWW.ENERGYSMARTCNY.ORG



SIGN UP



PARTNER





- FREE home safety and health check-up
- FREE products and supplies*
- FREE service - for Madison County tenants and homeowners**

This is an voluntary education and referral program from Madison County Public Health.

This is NOT a home repair or enforcement program.

*Free items based on need and availability may include: smoke alarm, carbon monoxide detector, radon detector, asthma management tools, cleaning items, child safety supplies, fall prevention items, and MORE!

**Services may be prioritized for low-income, persons with asthma, or within a targeted area



Request
your free
home
checkup!



Contact us today!

Madison County Public Health

www.healthymadisoncounty.org

138 N. Court Street, Building 5, Wampsville, NY 13163

facebook.com/MadisonCountyNY

 Email

healthyhomes@madisoncounty.ny.gov

 Phone

315-366-2526

 Fax

315-366-2207



Hosted By:



PURSE BINGO

SCAN



18+ Only Per NYS Law

TICKETS \$35

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31
DOORS OPEN AT 5:00
BINGO STARTS AT 6:30

KALLET CIVIC CENTER
MAIN ST. ONEIDA

Basket Raffles | 50/50 | Special Games
Light Concessions Available For Purchase



THE ONEIDA AMERICAN LEGION

presents

ONEIDA'S  
250th CELEBRATION

JULY 4, 2026



PARADE - LIVE MUSIC - CAR SHOW



VENDORS - FOOD TRUCKS - DRINKS - MUCH MORE



Celebrating with America

398 NORTH MAIN STREET, ONEIDA

