

JANUARY NEWSLETTER



As the holiday season comes to a close and we begin a new year, I want to extend my sincere thanks to the residents of Oneida, our City employees, and our community partners for another year of dedication, cooperation, and shared purpose. The close of the year is always a time of reflection, and 2025 presented its share of challenges that required careful decision making, fiscal discipline, and teamwork across every level of City government.

Because of those collective efforts, the City of Oneida enters 2026 on solid and stable footing. With an adopted budget in place, major infrastructure investments underway, and a continued focus on long term planning, we are well positioned to move forward responsibly. The year ahead will require continued accountability and smart financial management as resources remain tight, but we remain committed to maintaining essential services while advancing projects that improve public safety, infrastructure reliability, economic development, and overall quality of life.

In the months ahead, we will continue progress on critical initiatives including our water and wastewater system upgrades, downtown revitalization efforts, and improvements to City operations and services. None of this work is possible without the dedication of our City workforce, and I am deeply appreciative of their professionalism and commitment to serving this community. I also thank our residents for their engagement and our Common Council for their partnership as we work together to build a strong and resilient future for Oneida.

Warm wishes for a healthy, successful, and fulfilling New Year to you and your families.

Sincerely,
Kyle P. Lovell
City Manager

JANUARY MEETINGS

Common
Council
1-6-26 6:30pm

Recreation
1-8-26 6:30PM

Water Board
1-13-26 3:30PM

Planning/ZBA
1-13-26 6:00PM

Traffic Safety
1-20-26 2:00PM

Common
Council
1-20-26 6:30PM



Happy New Year! As we step into 2026, I want to begin by thanking our residents for your continued trust, energy, and partnership. Our community accomplished a great deal in the past year, and none of it would have been possible without the involvement of our neighbors, volunteers, businesses, and dedicated city staff.

This year, we remain focused on strengthening the services that matter most—public safety, responsible budgeting, and maintaining a government that is responsive and accessible to everyone. I'm proud of the teamwork that got us here and confident that this new city manager form of government will serve our community well for years to come.

January is a fresh start, and I encourage everyone to stay engaged—attend a meeting, reach out with ideas, or get involved in community events. Our progress comes from working together.

Thank you again for the privilege of serving as your mayor. Wishing you and your families a healthy, prosperous, and fulfilling year ahead.

Happy Holidays!
Mayor Rossi

CITY OF ONEIDA



WE'RE HIRING

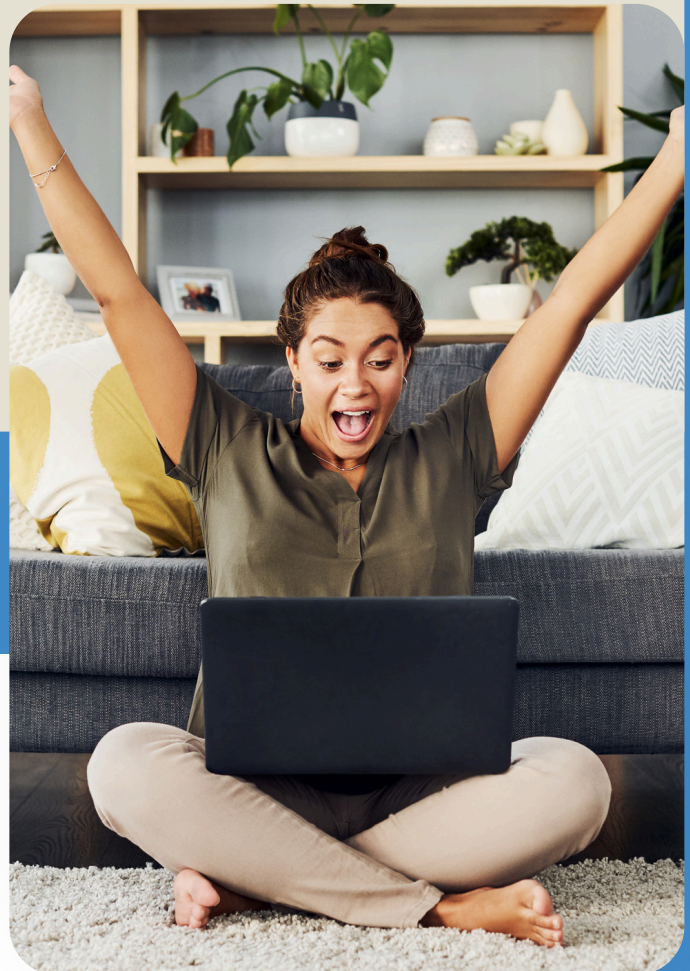


Competitive pay, great
benefits, vibrant workplace.

OPEN POSITIONS :

- ✓ Assessor
- ✓ Motor Equipment Operator
- ✓ DPW Laborer - CDL
- ✓ Lateral Transfer Police Officers

JOIN OUR TEAM!



APPLY NOW



Send your resume
JKAISER@ONEIDACITYNY.GOV



Visit our website
WWW.ONEIDACITYNY.GOV/JOBS



Contact us
315.363.2022, EXT. 133



A portrait of Jessica Kaiser, a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt and large earrings. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background of the portrait is a solid light blue.

JESSICA KAISER

Human RESOURCES MANAGER

CONTACT

315-363-2022, Ext. 133

Fax: 315-363-9558

jkaiser@oneidacityny.gov

Effective January 1, 2026, Jessica Kaiser will expand her responsibilities to include serving as the City of Oneida's Human Resources Manager while continuing in her capacity as Deputy Comptroller. The City is deeply appreciative of her expertise and the dedication and commitment she brings to her work.

CONGRATULATIONS!



OFFICE OF ACCOUNTING & TREASURY

CITY CHAMBERLAIN'S OFFICE

Brandon Parry joined the City of Oneida team as an Account Clerk in October 2025. He works primarily in the Chamberlain's Office, where he supports a wide range of financial and administrative functions, and he also provides assistance to the Finance Office. Brandon is a 2020 graduate of Le Moyne College, earning his bachelor's degree in Political Science. His strong academic background and interest in public service make him a natural fit for the City's municipal operations. Before joining the City of Oneida, Brandon worked at Community Bank gaining valuable experience in customer service, banking operations, and financial processing. We're excited to welcome Brandon to the team and appreciate the skills, professionalism, and fresh perspective he brings to our City!

“

I look forward to helping the residents and taxpayers of the City of Oneida!

”

Brandon Parry-Account Clerk



WELCOME BACK!

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Retirees:

Lonnie Stedman
Pat Thorpe
Donna Osier

Office Hours:

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



We extend our sincere appreciation to former Assessor Lonnie Stedman, Assessor's Aide Pat Thorpe, and Account Clerk Donna Osier for returning to assist the Assessor's Office following the resignation of the City Assessor.

Their willingness to step in and keep operations running smoothly is deeply appreciated, and we are truly grateful for their continued dedication to the City. We are glad to have them back home!

Staff Profile Highlights



Tracy Anderson

Senior Account Clerk Tracy Anderson has been part of the City of Oneida team for 27 years, consistently demonstrating exceptional expertise and reliability. Her work in the Finance Department and the City Chamberlain's Office reflects strong knowledge, precision, and professionalism, and her dedication makes a meaningful impact each day. She is truly an invaluable asset to the City.



Kathy Erdo

Administrative Aide Kathy Erdo is an essential part of the Oneida Fire Dept. and has been a dedicated City employee for 27 years. Her exceptional work and unwavering commitment support both the department and the community it serves. Kathy's expertise and steady professionalism enhance daily operations and ensure the dept. runs smoothly. We are fortunate to have her and deeply value all she brings to the organization.



Monique Ludwig

Deputy City Clerk Monique Ludwig goes above and beyond every day to serve the public. Her exceptional skills and attention to detail keep the office running efficiently. Her knowledge, work ethic, and dedication play a vital role in supporting the City's operations and are sincerely appreciated. In 2026, she will take over leadership of the City's Community Gardens, bringing her strong organizational abilities and commitment to community service to this important program.



Jeannie Markle

Account Clerk Jeannie Markle is recognized for her excellent work in the Codes Department and for taking on added responsibilities in the Planning Department. Her strong organizational skills, reliability, and dedication make a meaningful difference each day. She continues to be an invaluable asset whose contributions strengthen both departments. We are grateful for her hard work, professionalism, and willingness to go above and beyond.



A Few Notes To Remember

- The City Chamberlain's office is open daily from 8-3 and closed from 12-1 for lunch.
- The 2026 City Budget passed, which reflects a 5.3% tax increase.
- There will be no increase in water and sewer rates for 2026. Water Service charges will increase.
- There is no overnight parking though April 15, 2026 on designated streets.
- City offices will be closed on January 1, 2026 and we will be closing at 3PM on New Year's Eve.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT UPDATE



As we step into a new year, I wanted to share a few updates from the Planning & Development Department—and also say how grateful I am to be part of the City of Oneida. Even though I’m still relatively new here, I continue to meet residents and business owners who truly care about the future of this community, and that has been one of the best parts of the job.

Downtown Revitalization Progress

Our Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) projects continue moving forward. Hotel Oneida is making steady progress on their interior work as they prepare for their building permit, and several other projects are lining up for activity in early 2026. Momentum is building downtown, and it’s exciting to see.

Business Assistance Fund – Reopened!

We have officially reopened the Downtown Business Assistance Fund (BAF), which supports business and property owners in the downtown target area. This program can help with projects such as:

- Façade renovations
- Permanent signage and awnings
- Interior renovations and leasehold improvements
- Permanent machinery and equipment for businesses

The program offers matching grants up to \$100,000, typically covering 50% of total project costs, with the opportunity to receive up to 75% coverage for applicants who complete approved small-business training. This is a reimbursement program, meaning work must be completed before funds are disbursed. Applications are available at the City Clerk’s Office or on the [City website](#).

Comprehensive Plan Update

We recently signed the contract with Barton & Loguidice to begin work on the City’s new Comprehensive Plan. This long-range planning document will guide Oneida’s growth, development patterns, infrastructure, and community priorities for the next decade and beyond. Work will begin early in 2026, and we’ll keep residents informed as the process moves forward.



A Fun Observation (and a Community Opportunity!)

Since arriving in Oneida, I've noticed something interesting: we don't currently have a dry cleaner in the city. For a community our size, that's a service many families and professionals could really use. If you or someone you know has ever considered opening a dry-cleaning or laundry service, now might be a great time to explore it. The Business Assistance Fund could even support certain aspects of getting a downtown location ready.

Looking Ahead

Between active DRI projects, refreshed funding for small business improvements, the launch of the Comprehensive Plan, and ongoing conversations with prospective developers, there's a lot to be optimistic about in 2026. Thank you to everyone who continues to invest time, energy, and creativity into Oneida's future. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a warm and hopeful start to the new year!

Steve Vonderweidt

Director of Planning & Development
City of Oneida





Community News

The City of Oneida is proud to recognize and thank the officers and firefighters who volunteered at North Broad Elementary's inaugural Community Readers Day. Your participation—sharing winter-themed stories and classroom activities with Madison County BOCES students—brought learning to life and strengthened the bond between our first responders and the children they serve every day. Your continued dedication to our community is deeply appreciated.



A big thank-you to [Back the Blue](#) for their generous toy drive that filled one of our police cars to the brim. The Grinch tried to sneak off with a few toys, but officers were quick to stop him!

Hundreds of toys were donated to eight local police agencies, including the City of Oneida, and will be delivered to local children this holiday season.

We are grateful to the Oneida Police Benevolent Association for their ongoing commitment to our community.



Event News

Join us for a celebration to commemorate the United States' 250th Birthday! The event is sponsored by the American Legion, with the City proudly serving as a co-sponsor.

- Date: July 4, 2026
- Time: Car show starts at 10:00AM
- Location: Veterans Memorial Field
- All are welcome to participate and volunteers are needed
- Music, Crafts, Food Vendors and Fireworks!
- Car/Truck/Vehicle Show
- Family activities and more!

For Car Show Information, click [HERE](#)!

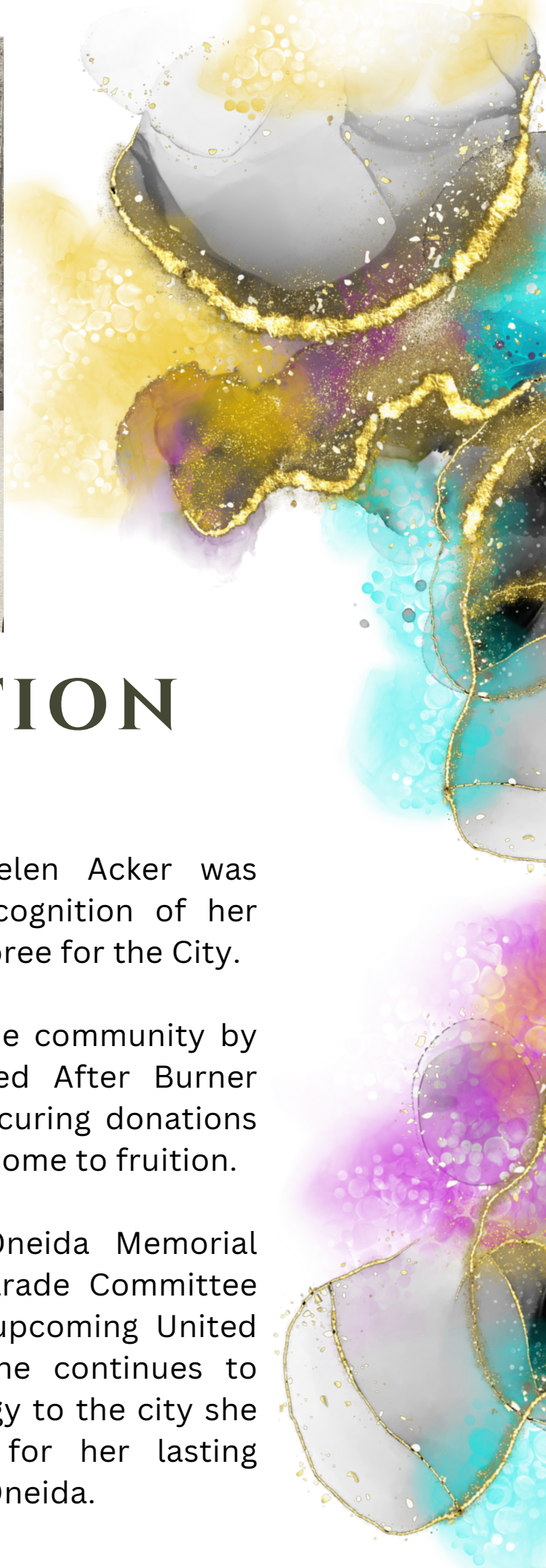


IN APPRECIATION OF HELEN ACKER

On December 16, former Mayor Helen Acker was presented with a proclamation in recognition of her selection as this year's "Extra Mile" honoree for the City.

Mayor Acker has remained active in the community by serving as Chair of the newly formed After Burner Committee and was responsible for securing donations which made the 2025 fireworks display come to fruition.

She is an active member of the Oneida Memorial Association and the Memorial Day Parade Committee and is now involved in planning the upcoming United States 250th birthday celebration. She continues to generously dedicate her time and energy to the city she loves, and we are deeply grateful for her lasting commitment and service to the City of Oneida.



SNOW PLOW SAFETY



TIPS:

- Snow plows have limited visibility—stay cautious and give them space.
- Plows can't stop quickly. Keep your distance to stay safe.
- Snow clouds from plows can obscure your view—maintain a safe following distance.
- Be careful of ridges or bumps left behind, especially when changing lanes.

Important: Never pass a snow plow—For the safety of you, the snow plow driver, and any others on the road!

CITY OF ONEIDA

Sidewalk

PLOW

Service



The City operates one sidewalk plow, staffed by a full-time Motor Equipment Operator who begins plowing at 3am. Priority is given to school zones, followed by main streets, and it typically takes 2-3 days to complete these routes.

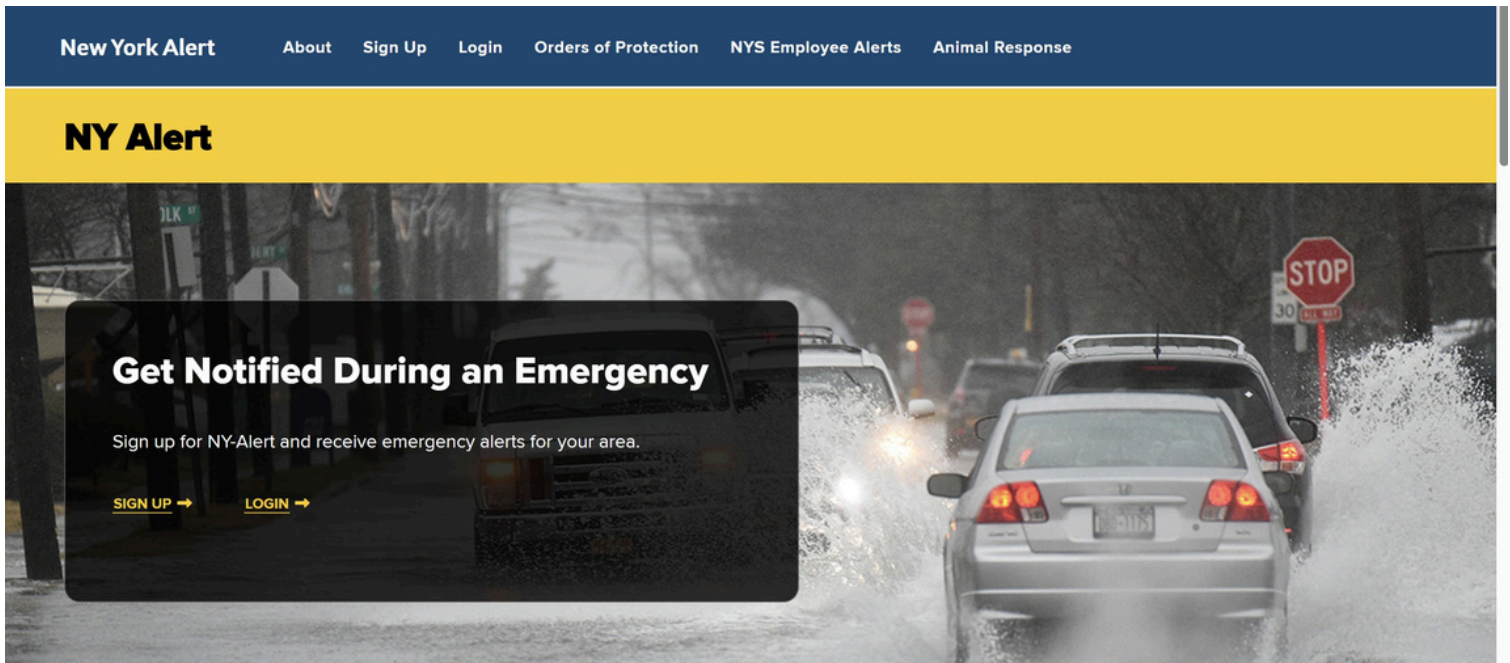
We kindly ask residents to remain patient during periods of heavy snowfall as the operator works through these areas.

Scott Meleski
Supervisor

Department of
Public Works



NEW YORK ALERT



NY-Alert warns residents of New York State of critical information/emergencies and provides timely information to protect lives. It is a free service that is customizable and one that I use and recommend! It gives alerts on road closures, weather advisories, Amber and Missing Children alerts, sex offender relocation and more.

Signing up is easy, and you can customize the type of information you receive by choosing the alert type and the locations.



[NY Alert Website](#)



KEEP YOUR VENTS CLEAR!

Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning



**DANGER
CO**

Keep Vents Clear!

Blocked Vent

**Clear Snow & Ice
from Hot Water
Heater, Furnace
& Other Exhaust
Vents!**



Carbon Monoxide is DEADLY & ODORLESS!

Stay Safe: Check Your Vents Regularly!



CITY OF ONEIDA

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

Congratulations to our 2026 Elected Officials

The City of Oneida invites the public to attend the Swearing-In Ceremony for all newly elected officials for 2026. Please join us as we welcome our incoming leaders and mark the beginning of the new term with this formal and celebratory occasion.

January 4, 2026
12:00 Noon

Kallet Civic Center
159 Main Street



CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to our new Utica Fire Academy graduates! In the photo, left to right: Deputy Chief David Hoffman, Chief Scott Jones, Lt. Andy Bennett, new firefighters Tyler Kinne, David Tyson, Alden Brown, firefighters Brad Ano and Kyle Greene. Welcome to the Oneida Fire Department family.



Sincere thanks to the Parks and Recreation Department, the Oneida High School Arts Club, and every volunteer and participant for making this year's Parade of Lights such a spectacular event!

PARADE OF LIGHTS



Many thanks to
Walmart for hosting
the annual Shop
With A Cop Event!

2025



SHOP WITH A COP



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KEIRA MAHONEY

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POLICE OFFICER

RECRUIT

WELCOME TO ONEIDA!



Congratulations

**CITY JUDGE
MICHAEL J. MISIASZEK**

2002-2025

Born In Huntington Station New York in 1955, Judge Misiaszek moved back to upstate New York where his family is from by kindergarten. Notre Dame High School and SUNY Maritime college followed, after which he served six years in the US Navy reserves while also sailing as 3rd and then 2nd mate on oil tankers around the world. This was followed by attending Albany Law School, rounding out an entirely New York based education.

Michael joined the law firm of Helmer & Johnson in Utica NY and became partner within three years. Teaching business courses at The Utica School of Commerce, BOCES, and MVCC followed, as well as stints on the Diocesan School Board and a continuing tenure on various boards at the Central Association for The Blind and Visually Impaired. He was appointed part-time judge for the City of Oneida in August of 2002 and became full time on January 1, 2020.

Judge Misiaszek is married to Cathy McGranaghan Misiaszek, and they have two sons and three grandchildren, all of whom are now back in New York. New York State requires city judges to retire at 70, and Judge M has reached that mark. Adventures to follow include promoting his books, traveling and spending as much time as he can with those three grandkids.

Mr. M, as he is known to many, appreciates immensely the opportunity to have served the City of Oneida and is grateful for the experience and for the affection of his adopted community.

Thank You



DAVE JONES

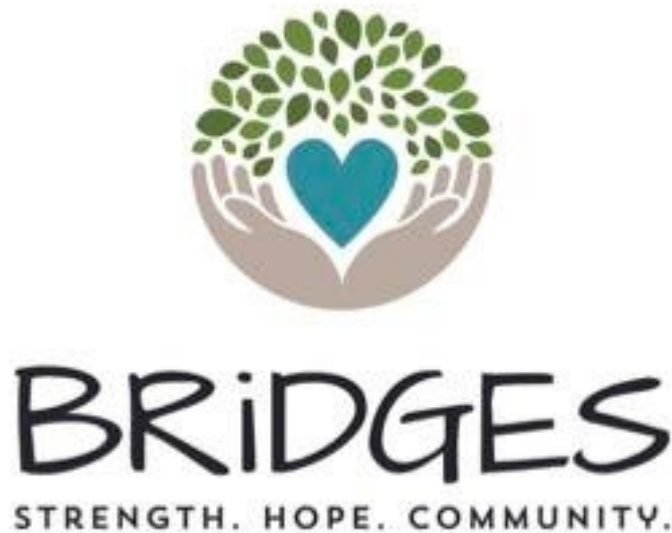
Public Safety
Commissioner

As we begin a new year, I want to take a moment to recognize and express our sincere appreciation for Dave Jones and his service as Public Safety Commissioner. Dave has been a steady presence for our Police and Fire Departments, offering thoughtful guidance, objective insight, and a genuine commitment to the well-being of our community. His leadership has helped strengthen our public safety operations, and his willingness to give his time and expertise embodies the very best of civic responsibility. We are grateful for all he has contributed to Oneida.

Dave's decision to step down at the end of December reflects not only humility but also a deep understanding of the fiscal realities that guide our work. He has always placed the needs of the city first and has helped pave the way for a more efficient and sustainable future. While he may no longer serve in an official capacity, he remains one of our strongest supporters, and we are fortunate to have his continued voice cheering on the men and women who serve our residents every day.

As we honor Dave's service and the service of so many who work tirelessly for this community, we also look ahead with optimism. A new year brings new opportunities for growth, progress, and continued momentum. Oneida is on a strong path forward, and as we reflect with gratitude on those who helped us reach this point, we must also keep our eyes on the future and whatever challenges and possibilities it may bring. I am confident that together we will make this a year of continued improvement, innovation, and pride for our amazing city.

Warm Regards,
City Manager, Kyle Lovell



Stories of impact: this month's story is about how BRiDGES helps our community!

BRiDGES (Madison County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse) is a non-profit organization that provides advocacy, resources, and programs for substance misuse prevention and intervention, including smoking cessation, problem gambling, and suicide prevention.

They work with individuals, families, and schools to promote change, strengthen families, and build healthier communities. Their services also include stress management classes and workplace wellness programs for businesses in Madison County.

In 1989 MCCASA established a comprehensive Employee Assistance Program that currently serves employees and their family members in businesses throughout the Central New York region.

Having served our community for more than 30 years, they remain an invaluable resource. Countless individuals battling addiction aren't aware of the resources that can guide them toward recovery.

If you or someone you know needs their services, please reach out. A single phone call can make all the difference.

We extend our sincere appreciation for all they do for our community.

Hours:

Available by appointment only.

Monday – Friday: 8am – 5pm

Tuesday evenings until 7pm

BRiDGES	315-697-3947
www.bridgescouncil.org	1507 Upper Lenox Ave. Oneida, NY 13421



BECOME A PARAMEDIC FOR FREE with SUNY RECONNECT

Increase your pay and elevate your expertise with a **2-year Paramedic Degree** from SUNY. **Now free for New Yorkers 25-55 with no degree.**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE TUITION?

Reconnect **covers tuition, fees, books, and supplies** after other forms of tuition assistance, such as NYS TAP, are applied. You must meet the following criteria:

- > New York State resident
- > 25-55 years old
- > NO prior college degree
- > Plan to study full- or part-time in an eligible degree program

ELIGIBLE SUNY CAMPUSES:

- > Broome Community College
- > Dutchess Community College
- > Erie Community College
- > Finger Lakes Community College
- > Hudson Valley Community College
- > Mohawk Valley Community College
- > Monroe Community College
- > Onondaga Community College
- > Suffolk County Community College
- > Westchester Community College



visit suny.edu/freecc
for more information
about **Paramedic**
programs at SUNY



MOBILE FOOD

VENDOR NEWS!

On November 5, 2025, the Common Council adopted Resolution 25-195, eliminating the daily license option for Mobile Food Vendors. All vendors operating in the City must now obtain an annual license for \$150. This license is valid from January 1 through December 31, 2026, and covers all special events, including Fall Fest.

Our food trucks have been fantastic to work with, and we sincerely appreciate the support they bring to our community.



[APPLY NOW](#)



Welcome to Oneida!



SHAKO:WI CULTURAL CENTER



Set within Nation Homelands, the Shako:wi Cultural Center—built from hand-crafted white pine logs—welcomes guests to explore thousands of years of Oneida heritage. From their vital support of General George Washington during the Revolutionary War to the modern-day resurgence of the Nation and the restoration of nearly 18,000 acres of ancestral lands, the Center brings the Oneida story to life.

MORE INFO »

Visit their Website [Here!](#)

1022 Territory Road-Oneida

315-829-8801

ONEIDA PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS:



NOON YEARS EVE PARTY

Families with littles who can't stay up for
midnight will get to celebrate with crafts, games
and a countdown to Noon!

Dec. 31st 11am - 12:15 pm



2026



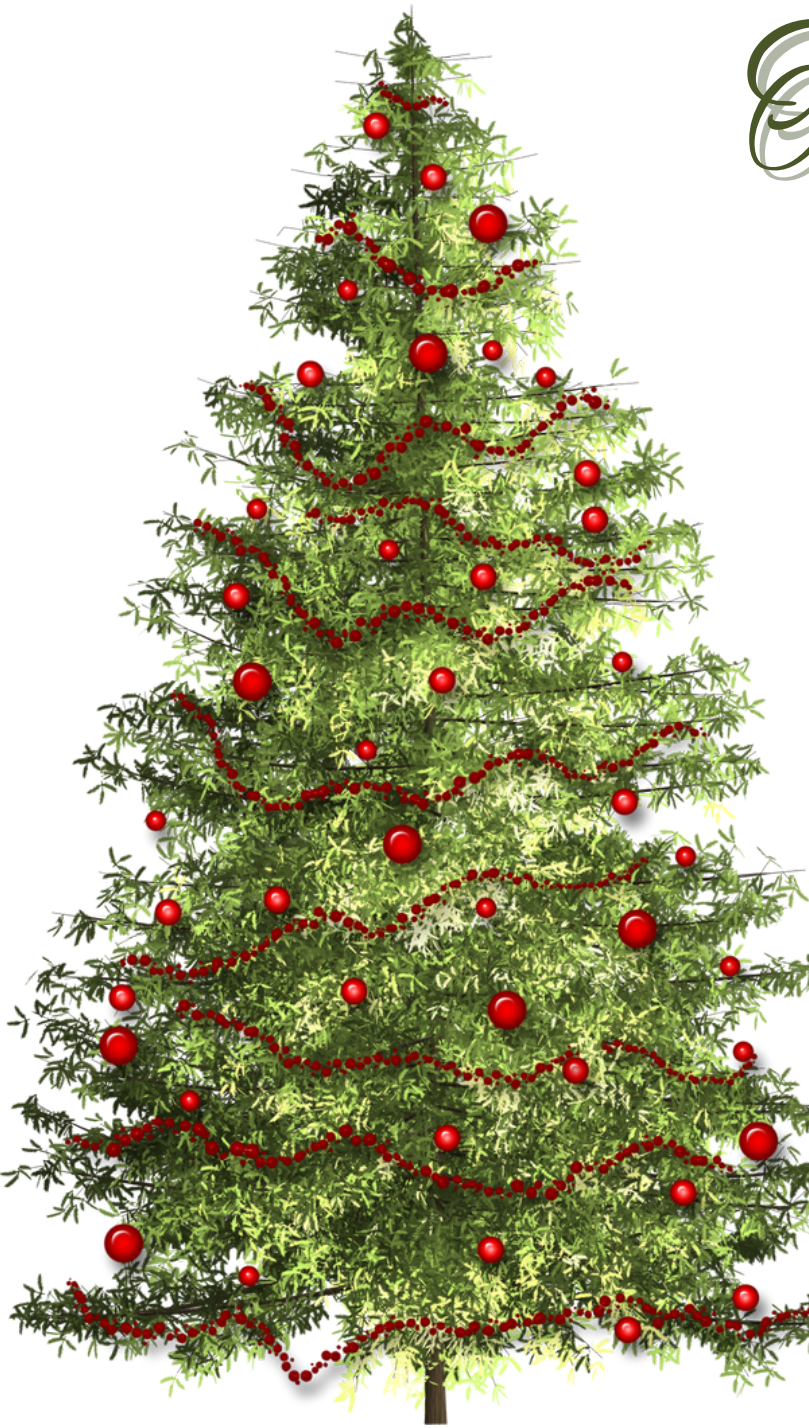
Thank you to my childhood neighbor and dear friend, Ria Curley, for capturing this beautiful picture of our beloved Allen Park.

I was blessed to grow up across the street from Allen Park and next door to the Curley family. I have so many memories-from the park programs and dances to arts and crafts, and just swinging with my best friend. Oneida is truly blessed to have such wonderful parks and an amazing Parks and Recreation Department to care for them.

Ria is also an accomplished singer/songwriter! Check her out on her [Facebook Page](#) or [website page](#)!

Thank You

Thank you to our outgoing members of the Common Council for their dedicated service to the City of Oneida. Your time, commitment, and thoughtful contributions have helped guide important decisions and support the community we serve. We are sincerely grateful for the many hours you devoted to this role and the steady leadership you provided. We extend our very best wishes to each of you as you move forward, and we thank you for your service to our city.



Councilor Jim Szczerba
Councilor Steve Laureti
Councilor Andrea Hitchings
Councilor Rob Winchell





HAPPY NEW YEAR

2026

Let's celebrate progress, welcome
change, and choose optimism
every single day

