



JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK

# STATE OF THE CITY

2022  
6



PRESENTED BY:  
**Mayor Kimberly A. Ecklund**



## **DELIVERED TO MEMBERS OF THE JAMESTOWN CITY COUNCIL**

***FEBRUARY 6, 2026***

To Council President Brackman, Council Members, and residents of Jamestown:

As we reflect on 2025, Jamestown continued to make steady, practical progress through targeted investment and a disciplined focus on core responsibilities. New businesses opened, existing businesses expanded, and strategic initiatives supported neighborhood stability and economic activity. The City reinvested in historic assets while advancing modern housing and redevelopment efforts—strengthening long-term viability without losing the character that defines Jamestown.

The work accomplished in 2025 required careful management of limited resources and constant prioritization. As costs continued to rise and revenues remained constrained, City employees across all departments sustained essential services by focusing on core responsibilities and operational efficiency. Their professionalism and commitment have been central to keeping Jamestown safe, functional, and reliable for residents. I am grateful for the dedication of our workforce and the role they play in maintaining the stability of City operations.

Community engagement also remained a defining strength in 2025.

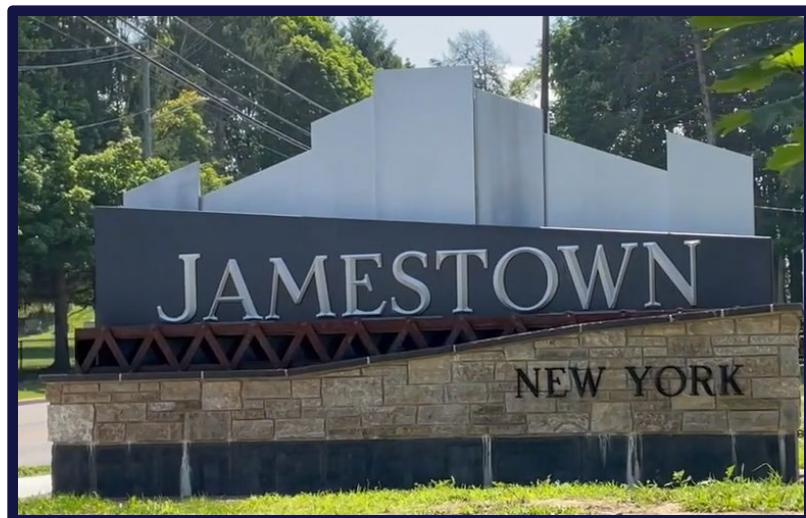
Jamestown proudly hosted the Babe Ruth World Series, continuing a decades-long tradition that brings families, visitors, and community partners together. Residents participated in the Holiday Lights Contest, and the City welcomed distinguished guests such as Swedish Ambassador Urban Ahlin—moments that celebrate tradition, strengthen civic connection, and showcase Jamestown on regional, national, and international stages.

Looking ahead, every decision the City makes must be grounded in fiscal reality. Sustained cost pressures require careful prioritization, difficult tradeoffs, and ongoing evaluation of how limited resources are used. Working in partnership with the City Council, City employees, and residents, the Administration remains focused on core services, public safety, infrastructure, and neighborhood stability—delivering practical, visible results while safeguarding the City's long-term financial health.

Sincerely,



KIMBERLY A. ECKLUND  
MAYOR



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Business Activity in Jamestown .....	1
Labor Agreements & Fiscal Balance.....	2
Financial Health & Fiscal Outlook .....	2
Grant Funding .....	7
Strengthening Jamestown's Development Team .....	8
NextGen Jamestown: Youth Civic Engagement .....	10
Law Enforcement & Community Safety.....	11
Emergency Response & Fire Services.....	13
Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agreement .....	14
Streets & Infrastructure Improvements.....	15
Changes to Alternate Side Parking .....	16
Advancing Housing & Supportive Services .....	17
Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization .....	19
Zoning Initiatives.....	21
Code Enforcement & Neighborhood Standards.....	22
Strategic Planning & Riverfront Revitalization.....	24
Developers' Forum & Investment Readiness .....	26
Parks & Public Spaces.....	27
Babe Ruth World Series .....	29
Tree City USA & Urban Forestry .....	30
City Historian Appointment.....	31
Recognizing Our Retirees .....	32
Welcoming New City Employees.....	33
Seasonal Spirit: Holiday Lights Contest .....	35
Ambassador Ahlin Visits Jamestown .....	36
Board of Public Utilities (BPU) .....	37

## BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN JAMESTOWN

Over the past year, businesses continued to open, expand, and invest in Jamestown. New businesses in 2025 included Bob Natural, CCSTV, Encore, A Slice of Home, Envy, Stacey's Nail Studio, and The Artistry Collective & Co. Several established businesses expanded into larger locations, including Uptwn Kix and Dave Snow State Farm Insurance, reflecting sustained demand and continued reinvestment. Fisher's Family Restaurant marked 30 years of operation, underscoring the long-term stability that anchors Jamestown's economy.

A significant investment in 2025 was Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union's purchase of the former Rite Aid building at 8<sup>th</sup> Street and North Main Street. The organization plans to open a full-service branch with a community room in 2026, expanding access to financial services and strengthening community connectivity.



*Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting celebrating the opening of CCSTV on East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.*



*The former Rite Aid site at 8<sup>th</sup> Street and North Main Street, purchased by Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union (SCFCU) in fall 2025, supporting future community investment.  
(Photo credit: Google Maps)*

Together, these investments reflect sustained confidence in Jamestown's ability to support stable, long-term business growth.

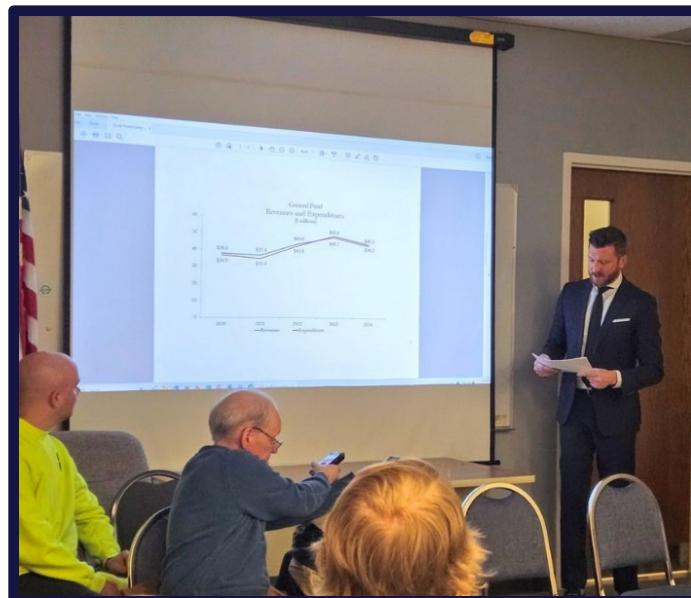
## LABOR AGREEMENTS & FISCAL BALANCE

In 2025, agreements were reached with the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA), the Jamestown Professional Firefighters Association, and the Kendall Club Police Benevolent Association, all of which were approved by City Council. Negotiations with the Jamestown City Administrative Association (JCAA), the Jamestown Urban Renewal Agency (JURA), and Local 418 American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME) continued, with the goal of completing all remaining city union contracts in 2026.

These negotiations are being conducted with a clear focus on fiscal sustainability. Agreements must align with the City's long-term financial capacity while remaining fair to employees and taxpayers.

## FINANCIAL HEALTH & FISCAL OUTLOOK

The City's financial position continues to be shaped by rising fixed costs, constrained revenue growth, and the expiration of one-time funding sources—conditions that significantly limit flexibility and increase long-term risk. Recent audit results and budget outcomes underscore these pressures. In 2025, City revenues declined by approximately \$663,308, while expenditures continued to rise. As of the most recent reporting, the City's



*Presentation of the City's 2024 audit results by  
Carl Widmer of Drescher & Malecki.  
(Photo Credit: WRFA)*

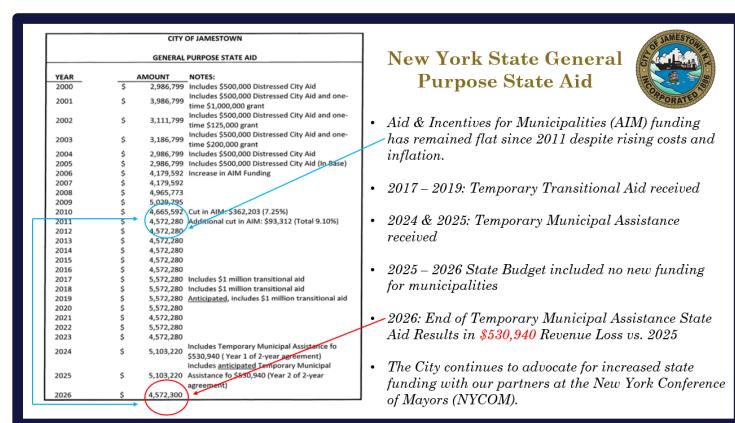
total fund balance stood at \$7.365 million, with an unassigned balance of \$4.99 million. This represents approximately 10.8% of annual spending, below the Government Finance Officers Association's recommended benchmark of 16.7%, or

roughly two months of operating expenditures. This reduced margin significantly limits the City's ability to absorb unexpected costs, emergencies, or economic disruption.

The completion of the 2024 Audit confirmed an unassigned General Fund balance of \$7,365,440, of which \$2,839,869 was appropriated in the 2026 Budget, reducing the remaining balance to approximately \$4,525,571. While the strategic use of fund balance has helped stabilize operations in the short term, continued reliance on reserves is not sustainable. The City is drawing down its financial safety net as recurring expenditures continue to outpace recurring revenues, accelerating structural imbalance.

These fiscal pressures were intensified by extended delays in the City's audit process. Audits for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 were completed well beyond standard timelines, limiting timely financial insight and complicating budget development during a period of increasing strain. The absence of a City Comptroller for much of this period further disrupted financial continuity, reducing oversight capacity and hindering coordinated audit management and data reconciliation. Together, these factors constrained effective financial planning and elevated risk when accuracy and stability were most critical.

At the same time, one-time funding sources that previously helped close operating gaps are no longer available. The City used \$1.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in the 2025 budget to address immediate shortfalls; those funds have now been fully expended. Temporary Municipal



*New York State General Purpose State Aid information presented during the Mayor's October 2026 Budget Presentation.*

Assistance totaling \$530,940 was provided by the State in both 2024 and 2025, but this support was short-term and not a sustainable solution. State Aid through the Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) program remains flat at \$4,572,280, unchanged despite inflation, rising labor costs, and increasing service demands. While the Governor's proposed 2026–2027 State Budget extends Temporary Municipal Assistance for one additional year, approval and appropriation remain uncertain, reinforcing the temporary nature of current State support. Meanwhile, unfunded State mandates—including jail matrons and mandatory cybersecurity reporting and training—continue to add costs without reimbursement.

Fixed obligations account for an increasing share of the City's annual budget. In 2026, wage-related costs are projected to increase by \$770,479 compared to preliminary 2025 year-end figures. Retirement contribution rates are increasing by 9.41%, with Police and Fire rates rising by 11.9%. Rising health and dental insurance premiums, a 5% increase in property insurance, and escalating utility, equipment, and maintenance costs continue to place sustained pressure on the operating budget. New labor agreements and ongoing negotiations across multiple unions further contribute to cost growth, while minimum staffing and impact clauses limit flexibility in managing personnel and operational expenses.

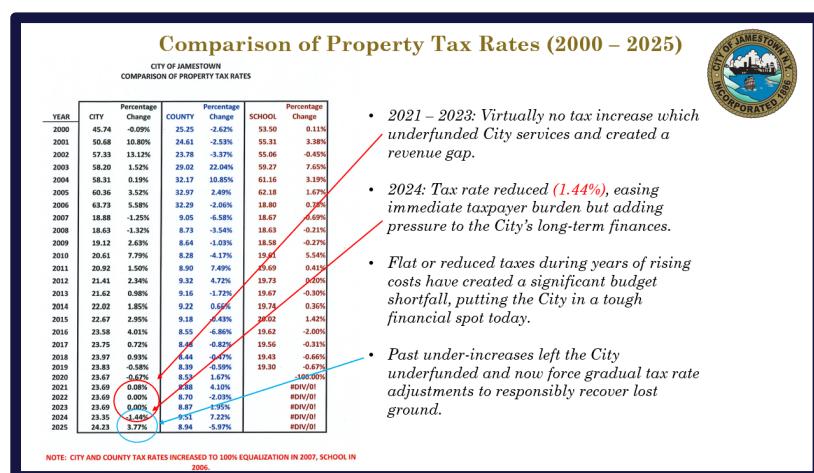
As a result, the City is operating under the same constraints residents are facing in their own households. Rising costs require constant prioritization, difficult tradeoffs, and a careful re-evaluation of every expenditure. Just as families must decide what can be deferred, scaled back, or eliminated, the City must make hard choices about staffing, services, equipment replacement, and capital investment—often postponing needed improvements to focus on core obligations. Doing more with less is not a temporary condition; it is the financial reality the City must navigate today and in the years ahead.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) revenue remains an additional pressure point. EMS income continues to fall short of original projections, placing strain on the

operating budget. A new EMS vehicle, budgeted in 2024 to expand service capacity and generate additional revenue, did not become fully operational until November 2024, limiting the City's ability to accurately project 2025 revenues. While a full year of operational data now informs future budgets, actual reimbursements remain below initial expectations, reflecting broader national trends of delayed and reduced EMS reimbursement rates faced by municipalities.

To manage these constraints, the 2025 and 2026 budgets include no new discretionary capital spending beyond Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS)-funded work and essential capital improvements. While necessary in the short term, deferred investment increases long-term risk. Critical equipment—including a ladder fire truck, dump trucks, plow trucks, and patch trucks—is nearing end-of-life, and continued delays in replacement raise maintenance costs and threaten service reliability and public safety.

Revenue pressures are further compounded by a shrinking tax base. Recent reassessments and court decisions resulted in a \$3.33 million reduction in taxable value, including significant adjustments for Jamestown Business College, the BWB Building, and major commercial properties such as Big Lots Plaza and the former Rite Aid at Brooklyn Square, in addition to \$860,000 in reductions from 2024. Additional assessment challenges are anticipated, requiring careful fiscal planning to sustain essential City services.



*Property tax rate information presented during the Mayor's October 2026 Budget Presentation.*

These fiscal conditions are the result of several consecutive years in which revenues did not keep pace with the escalating cost of City operations. Between 2021 and 2023, minimal tax adjustments left essential services underfunded and created a structural imbalance that persisted. In 2024, a 1.44% tax rate reduction—combined with material budget inaccuracies—further weakened the City’s financial footing during a period of heightened inflation. Together, these factors continue to impact the City today, reducing fiscal flexibility, increasing dependence on reserves, and limiting the City’s ability to sustain services and plan for the future.

Collectively, declining revenues, rising fixed costs, reduced fund balance, expired one-time funding, audit delays, and a shrinking tax base underscore the urgency of disciplined fiscal management and sustained State advocacy. Without corrective action, continued reliance on reserves will erode financial stability and limit the City’s ability to maintain essential services, respond to emergencies, and invest in the infrastructure and equipment required to support the community.

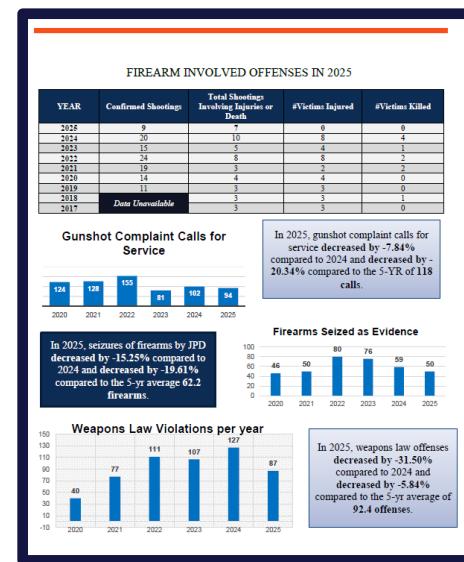
Despite these challenges, the City has made measurable progress strengthening financial oversight and reporting under Comptroller Ericka Thomas. Restoring audit timelines, improving financial clarity, and rebuilding internal controls have enhanced transparency and accountability. Reestablishing accuracy, discipline, and timely reporting remains a top priority for the Administration, recognizing that long-term fiscal stability depends on reliable data, informed decision-making, and sustained fiscal discipline.

## GRANT FUNDING

In 2025, the City of Jamestown was awarded approximately \$1.48 million in grant funding, supporting priority initiatives across public safety, infrastructure, and community development. These awards reflect focused grant coordination, strong interdepartmental collaboration, and the City's continued ability to compete successfully for external funding in a constrained and highly competitive environment.

Coordinated by Grant Coordinator Paula Pichon, awarded funding supported key public safety initiatives, including the Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) program, Statewide Targeted Reductions in Intimate Partner Violence (STRIVE) funding, and the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program, strengthening enforcement, victim services, and officer safety. Grant funding also advanced infrastructure and quality-of-life projects such as Main Street Viaduct and Underpass Improvements, upgrades to the Allen Park Bandshell, disc golf course enhancements at Bergman Park, planning for a downtown mural project, and continued progress through Restore Round 9, positioning Jamestown for future reinvestment.

Beyond 2025 awards, the City continues to manage active grants and pursue new funding aligned with housing, parks and recreation, historic preservation, downtown redevelopment, public safety, and workforce development. Grant funding remains a critical tool for advancing priority projects, leveraging outside resources, and maintaining fiscal discipline during a period of rising costs and limited local revenue growth.



## STRENGTHENING JAMESTOWN'S DEVELOPMENT TEAM

In 2025, the City of Jamestown strengthened the Department of Development by welcoming three professionals whose experience expands the City's capacity in planning, zoning, code enforcement, and economic development.

Jason Kulaszewski, Principal Planner, brings extensive experience in regional planning, sustainability, and community engagement. He previously served as Sustainability Program Manager at the University at Buffalo Regional Institute, where he coordinated energy and climate programs, provided technical guidance to municipalities, secured grant funding, and facilitated hands-on planning initiatives. Prior to that role, he led People United for Sustainable Housing (PUSH) Buffalo, managing New York State–funded energy efficiency and building renovation programs focused on adaptive reuse, historic preservation, and neighborhood engagement. Jason's expertise in planning, project coordination, and stakeholder engagement positions him to guide Jamestown's long-term growth, zoning updates, and development strategies.



*Pictured from left to right: Aili Makuch, Economic Development Coordinator; Jason Kulaszewski, Principal Planner; and Kenny Garcia, Building & Zoning Code Enforcement Officer.*

Kenny Garcia, Building & Zoning Code Enforcement Officer, joined Jamestown from South Carolina, where he served as Planning Commissioner and Zoning Administrator for the Town of Gilbert and as Environmental Health Manager III for

the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services. Kenny oversaw development and redevelopment programs, drafted and implemented zoning ordinances, managed capital improvement initiatives, and enforced regulatory compliance across 19 counties. His work included supervising staff, conducting inspections, and leading investigations that resulted in civil penalties and criminal indictments for violations. Since joining Jamestown, Kenny earned his New York State Zoning & Code Enforcement certification in November 2025, strengthening the City's enforcement capacity and support for neighborhood standards.

Aili Makuch, Economic Development Coordinator, joined the Department in January 2025, bringing a background in real estate, marketing, and program coordination. Aili's experience as a Licensed Real Estate Salesperson in the Chautauqua Institution and surrounding areas honed her skills in managing complex property transactions and cultivating strong client relationships. Previously, as Program Coordinator for the Chautauqua County Land Bank Corporation, Aili worked on initiatives to repurpose blighted properties, strengthen neighborhoods, and promote reinvestment. Her experience directly supports Jamestown's ongoing economic development and neighborhood revitalization efforts.

Together, Jason, Kenny, and Aili have strengthened departmental operations and improved the City's ability to advance planning, enforcement, and economic development priorities.

## NEXTGEN JAMESTOWN: YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

In 2025, the City of Jamestown partnered with Collaborative Children's Solutions (CCS) to support NextGen Jamestown, a new hands-on mentorship and civic engagement initiative designed to connect local students with city leadership and municipal operations.



*Mayor Ecklund speaks with Jamestown High School students, answering questions and discussing local government during a fall visit.*

The two-year initiative runs through June 2027, beginning with students at Jamestown High School, with plans to expand into additional area schools. Through interactive workshops, mentorship opportunities, and real-world projects, students gain exposure to how local government functions and how public decisions shape the community.

As part of the program, students receive behind-the-scenes access to City departments and staff, including Police, Fire, Parks, Streets, the Department of Development, and the Mayor's Office. This hands-on approach allows students to better understand municipal operations, public service careers, and the role local government plays in the daily life of the city.

By supporting NextGen Jamestown, the City is helping foster early civic awareness and engagement, giving young residents a clearer understanding of how Jamestown operates and how they can be informed, responsible participants in the community's future.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT & COMMUNITY SAFETY

In February 2026, Chief Timothy Jackson will retire after 20 years of dedicated service to the City of Jamestown. Under his leadership, the department strengthened public safety operations, enhanced community partnerships, and emphasized accountability and crime prevention. The City thanks Chief Jackson for his commitment, vision, and dedication to protecting residents and fostering trust within the community.

The Jamestown Police Department continues to make measurable progress in public safety. In 2025, Part I crimes declined by 2.35%, and overall calls for service decreased by 3.8%. Gunshot complaint calls were down 7.84% from 2024 and 20.34% compared to the five-year average.

The department continues to leverage grant funding to enhance operations. The \$309,980 Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) program supports coordinated patrols and enforcement with partners including the Chautauqua County Sheriff's Office, New York State Parole, Chautauqua County Probation, and the City's Department of Development. These efforts focus on high-risk locations, monitoring parolees and probationers, and addressing emerging crime trends. GIVE funding also supports prevention and community engagement initiatives, including the Citizen Police Academy, which hosted its third class to strengthen public understanding and trust.



*Chief Timothy Jackson and Deputy Chief Scott Forster with the 2025 Citizens Police Academy graduating class.*

In addition, the department's Domestic Violence Unit received \$309,815 in Statewide Targeted Reductions in Intimate Partner Violence (STRIVE) funding to enhance responses to intimate partner violence, improve victim services, and strengthen offender accountability. The department's indoor training range is also nearing completion, providing modern infrastructure to support officer safety, marksmanship, and tactical readiness. The previous facility had served the department for more than 50 years and no longer met current training standards. Ongoing collaboration with the Department of Development continues to address crimes associated with vacant properties, including trespass, larceny, and vandalism, further protecting neighborhood safety and quality of life.



*A commemorative tree planting at Baker Park in April, honoring the memory of Kala May Hodgkins and recognizing Child Abuse Prevention Month, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and National Crime Victims' Rights Week.*

Together, these efforts reflect disciplined leadership, targeted investment, and continued progress toward safer streets, stronger partnerships, and increased community trust.

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE & FIRE SERVICES

This past May, Deputy Fire Chief Matthew Coon retired after more than 27 years of dedicated service with the Jamestown Fire Department. Throughout his tenure, Chief Coon's leadership, experience, and steady presence helped shape the department's operations and left a lasting impact on both his colleagues and the community he served. The City thanks Chief Coon for his commitment to public safety, mentorship of department staff, and service to residents.



*Mayor Ecklund presents a proclamation honoring Deputy Fire Chief Matthew Coon's service and retirement.*

In 2025, the Jamestown Fire Department handled a total call volume 9.35% higher than the previous year, reaching the highest level seen in a decade. Ambulance transports increased 33.4%, reflecting the full-year deployment of a second ambulance and providing important data for evaluating staffing, resources, and long-term operational planning.



*Jamestown Firefighters on scene responding to a fire on Superior Street in September.*

Ryan Roush, a member of the department since 2007 and former Lieutenant and Battalion Chief, now serves as Interim Fire Chief, overseeing daily operations and guiding the department's strategic planning.

The department also investigated 37 fires through the Fire Investigation Team, reopened and fully staffed Station 5 following renovations, and distributed approximately 335 carbon monoxide

and smoke detectors through the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Grant Program (COPPGP), strengthening fire prevention and life safety across the community.

The department remains focused on providing effective fire and emergency medical services, continuing to improve operations, support community safety, and respond to the evolving needs of the City.



*Jamestown firefighters in action while extinguishing a fire on English Street in December.*

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) AGREEMENT

In November 2025, the City formalized a new agreement with Alstar Emergency Medical Services, securing City Council approval and ensuring the continued delivery of reliable emergency medical care for Jamestown residents. Alstar has served as the City's primary EMS provider since 1988, providing ambulance transport and on-scene medical care in coordination with the Jamestown Police and Fire Departments.

The agreement maintains the City's two-tiered emergency response system, with Alstar responding to more than 5,000 calls annually, while ensuring uninterrupted service at no additional cost to taxpayers. It also supports ongoing training for Jamestown Fire Department personnel through access to the Alstar Emergency Medical Services Training Center, strengthening emergency preparedness and patient care.

This partnership underscores the City's commitment to a coordinated, dependable emergency response system that balances public safety, operational continuity, and fiscal responsibility.

## STREETS & INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

The City of Jamestown continues to make steady progress in maintaining and enhancing streets and infrastructure across the community. Full reconstruction projects were completed on Barrows Avenue, Strong Street, Schuyler Avenue, and West 13<sup>th</sup> Street near Jackson Taylor Park, with partial improvements on Hall Avenue and Clinton Street. In addition, over 72 streets—spanning more than 11.5 miles—received resurfacing and maintenance, including milling, paving, Nova Chip, chip seal, and micro-paving. Drainage upgrades on Sturges, Springdale, Barrows, and Schuyler Streets improved stormwater management and helped protect neighborhoods from flooding.

The City is preparing to receive \$1.25 million in federal funding for the Stormwater Channel Maintenance Project, a critical investment to reduce flooding risk along the Chadakoin River, the outlet of Chautauqua Lake, and the Jones & Gifford corridor. The funding will support restoration and maintenance of stormwater channels through the removal of accumulated sediment, debris, and obstructions that threaten homes, businesses, and essential infrastructure. By improving stormwater flow during heavy rainfall, this project strengthens resilience, protects infrastructure, and supports the ecological health of the river system and surrounding environment.

Major infrastructure projects are also advancing in partnership with consultants and state agencies. The Minnow Brook Project, supported by a \$1.5



*Curb improvements completed at Lincoln Street & 7th Street this past year.*

million Bridge NY grant awarded in 2024, will repair and replace the culvert between Allen Street and the Chadakoin River. Easements, plans, and specifications are being finalized, with bidding anticipated in summer/fall 2026 and construction expected to begin in spring 2027.

In 2025, Jamestown's Department of Public Works (DPW) worked with NYSDOT to implement temporary safety improvements on 2nd Street in preparation for the 2026 reconstruction project. During the spring and summer construction season, NYSDOT contractor CATCo will upgrade traffic signals, accessible ramps, sidewalks, and complete milling and paving. These improvements will enhance safety and accessibility for residents, businesses, and visitors while advancing long-term infrastructure needs. Similar in scope to the Washington Street reconstruction, the project will require temporary traffic adjustments during construction.

## CHANGES TO ALTERNATE SIDE PARKING

In May 2025, the City Council approved an update to Jamestown's Alternate Side Parking regulations, extending the season from April–September to April–October. This adjustment reflects the later onset of winter conditions in recent years and aligns the parking schedule more closely with current weather patterns.

The change was implemented in fall 2025 and has been well received by residents. Updated signage was installed citywide prior to the former September 30 end date to ensure clear communication. Extending the season reduces unnecessary disruption during October—when winter conditions are uncommon—and makes day-to-day parking more practical for households and businesses.



*Updated City parking signage reflecting the new alternate side parking dates near Nordstrom Park.*

## ADVANCING HOUSING & SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

The City of Jamestown has played a strategic role in advancing major housing and supportive service initiatives in partnership with nonprofit organizations, developers, and service providers. By assisting with planning, approvals, and development processes, the City has helped move complex projects forward that expand housing options, strengthen neighborhoods, and increase access to critical support services.

The Gateway Lofts project represents a \$77 million redevelopment of the former Chautauqua Hardware building on Water Street, creating 110 units of affordable housing and returning a long-vacant structure to productive use.

Blooming Gardens, a \$3.2 million development, will provide 12 units of permanent supportive housing for individuals living with mental illness or long-term homelessness. The project received \$200,000 in HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funding, with the City assisting in program navigation, coordination, and compliance to help advance the project.

Through the Scattered Site Development initiative, led by Citizen's Opportunity for Development & Equality, Inc. (CODE) and Southern Tier Environments for Living, Inc. (STEL), partners are advancing construction and rehabilitation across 18 buildings at 12 sites, creating 48 housing units and 140 beds. This effort promotes reinvestment in residential areas and expands safe, accessible housing throughout the city.



*The former Jamestown Business College mansion, the future location of a women's and children's shelter operated by UCAN City Mission.  
(Photo Credit: Google Maps)*

Redevelopment is also underway at the former Jamestown Business College campus on Fairmount Avenue. The St. Susan Center will relocate to the site, expanding dining, kitchen, pantry, and programming space to better serve the community. UCAN City Mission is advancing plans to convert the adjacent mansion into emergency housing for seven women and their children, while continuing operations at its First Street men's shelter. These projects will increase housing capacity, improve living conditions, and reduce reliance on emergency services.

In addition, Hope Haven, the Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. (COI) women's shelter, opened in 2025 and has become an important part of Jamestown's supportive services network. The 18-bed facility provides secure housing and access to resources for women experiencing homelessness. The project received \$110,000 in lead poisoning prevention funding, supporting safety improvements and helping bring the facility to completion.



*Celebrating the opening of the Hope Haven Women's Shelter during the ribbon-cutting ceremony this past June.*

Together, these initiatives demonstrate how strategic partnerships and coordinated efforts not only create housing but also strengthen communities, enhance safety, and improve quality of life for Jamestown residents. By supporting these initiatives, the City helps ensure a brighter, more stable future for all who live and work here.

## HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

Jamestown is taking deliberate steps to improve housing quality, revitalize neighborhoods, and expand opportunities for residents across the city. Through a collaborative partnership with the Chautauqua County Land Bank, the City has targeted properties and neighborhoods where strategic intervention can have the greatest impact, allowing resources to be focused where they strengthen neighborhoods and improve overall quality of life.

As part of this effort, the City launched the Infill Housing Pilot Program, a targeted initiative designed to replace hazardous vacant structures and underutilized lots with modern homes that align with the scale and character of existing neighborhoods. The initiative—and the opportunity presented by Jamestown's aging housing stock—was highlighted by WKBW Channel 7 Buffalo's Maki Becker. While the City remains committed to preserving homes and maintaining neighborhood continuity, selective demolition is sometimes necessary to address unsafe or abandoned structures.



*WKBW reporter Maki Becker covering the City of Jamestown's Infill Housing Pilot Program. (Photo credit: YouTube)*

These carefully planned removals also create opportunities to modernize infrastructure in coordination with the Jamestown Board of Public Utilities (BPU), including upgrades to underground utilities, water and sewer lines, and the replacement of overhead power lines. Improving these systems prepares sites for new housing and enhances safety, livability, and long-term neighborhood appeal.

During the past year, several houses on Cross Street and Fulton Street were removed through the City's demolition program, clearing sites that had long been a source of community concern. These actions improved safety and neighborhood appearance while creating opportunities for new infill housing that supports reinvestment and stability.

By coordinating demolition, property targeting, and planning for future housing construction, the City is establishing a framework that supports safer streets, encourages reinvestment, and expands housing options for current and future residents. These efforts, combined with the pursuit of state grant funding for new home construction, reinforce Jamestown's commitment to neighborhood stability, homeownership opportunities, and sustainable community growth.



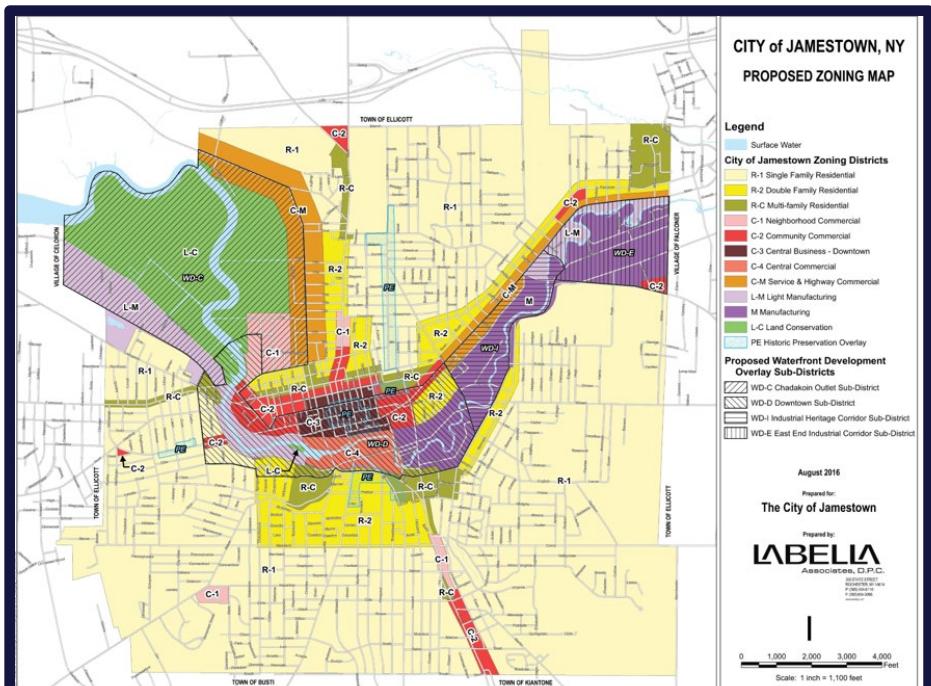
*Post-demolition view of a Fulton Street property, cleared in November and positioned for future infill housing development.*



*Several properties across the city were demolished this past fall as part of ongoing neighborhood improvement efforts.*

## ZONING INITIATIVES

The City of Jamestown continues to strengthen neighborhoods and support responsible growth through strategic zoning initiatives. In 2025, the area south of Jackson-Taylor Park—covering Monroe, Clinton, Jefferson, Lafayette, and Isabella streets—was rezoned from Residential-2 to Commercial-1, allowing for business development with fewer variances while maintaining neighborhood compatibility.

The map shows the proposed zoning districts for the City of Jamestown, NY. It includes various districts such as R-1, R-2, R-C, C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, LM, M, L-C, and PE. The map also shows the proposed waterfront development overlay sub-districts: WD-C (Chadakoin Outlier Sub-District), WD-D (Downtown Sub-District), WD-I (Industrial Heritage Corridor Sub-District), and WD-E (East End Industrial Corridor Sub-District). The map is dated August 2016 and prepared by The City of Jamestown and LABELIA Associates, O.P.C. The scale is 1 inch = 1,100 feet.

Pilot Residential Districts were also established as part of the Infill Housing Pilot Program, providing more flexible permitting to advance infill development, support thoughtful redevelopment, and reinforce neighborhood revitalization.

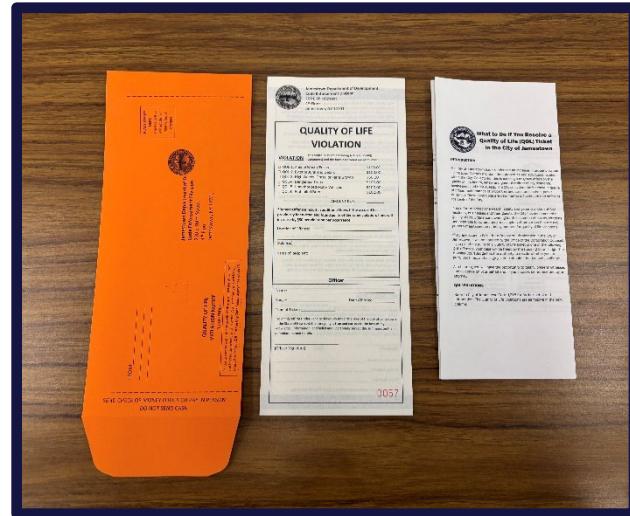
Jamestown is nearing completion of a new Comprehensive Plan, the first update since 1998. This long-overdue plan will guide growth, redevelopment, and neighborhood improvements, providing a modern framework for the City's future. Following adoption, the City will undertake a comprehensive overhaul of its zoning code to ensure regulations align with contemporary development practices and community priorities—laying the groundwork for sustainable growth and long-term neighborhood stability.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT & NEIGHBORHOOD STANDARDS

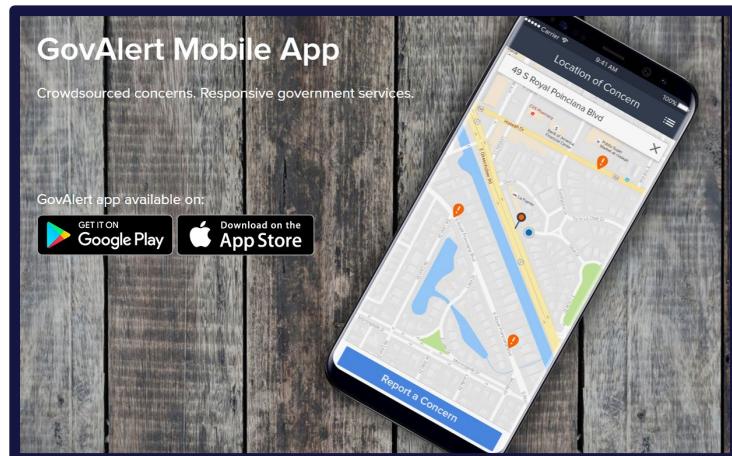
The City of Jamestown continues to strengthen code enforcement to protect neighborhoods, ensure safe housing, and hold property owners accountable.

In 2025, the City launched a Vacant Property Registration Program for residential properties, with a commercial rollout planned for 2026. The program helps track ownership, improve property maintenance, and prevent long-term neglect. The Rental Inspection Ordinance also advanced, requiring landlords to register units and complete inspections within 90 days of property transfers, ensuring compliance with building, housing, and sanitation codes while improving tenant safety.

To address day-to-day neighborhood concerns, the City utilized Quality of Life (QOL) enforcement tools to resolve issues such as junk, overgrown vegetation, unauthorized vehicles, and prohibited burns. More than 1,125 code violation complaints were reported in 2025. Low-complexity cases were resolved quickly through QOL



*The Quality-of-Life ticket is utilized as an enforcement mechanism to resolve low-complexity code violations.*



*The GovAlert app provides a streamlined way for residents to report code concerns.*  
Photo Credit: (govpilot.com/govalert)

tickets, while more complex violations proceeded through full inspection and remediation to achieve lasting compliance.

The City also streamlined Housing Court processes in 2025, enabling more effective prosecution of code violations and property condemnations. These efforts resulted in Jamestown's most successful year to date, with \$58,500 in fines issued. Approximately 80% of fines were assessed against Limited Liability Companies (LLCs), reflecting the City's focus on holding corporate property owners accountable. One repeat offender, operating multiple neglected properties through several LLCs, accounted for \$30,350 in fines alone.

In addition, Code Enforcement Officer Sean Jones and Building & Zoning Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Garcia both obtained New York State certification in 2025, expanding the City's internal capacity to enforce codes and address property-related issues.

Together, these coordinated efforts reflect Jamestown's proactive approach to code enforcement—focused on accountability, responsiveness, and measurable outcomes—supporting safer housing, stronger neighborhoods, and an improved quality of life for residents.



*Code Enforcement workflow showing the path from complaint submission to enforcement action.*

## STRATEGIC PLANNING & RIVERFRONT REVITALIZATION

Jamestown is advancing a coordinated planning framework to guide growth, infrastructure investment, and community development. The City's Comprehensive Plan is on track for completion in 2026. Throughout 2025, a Steering Committee of City departments, local organizations, businesses, and residents shaped the plan through targeted engagement, including neighborhood walking tours, a kayak tour of the Chadakoin River, and public workshops. Feedback gathered through Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analyses has informed the final draft, which will serve as a modern roadmap for land use, housing, transportation, and economic development.

The City is partnering with Chautauqua County and C&S to advance Phase I of the Chadakoin Basin Activation, supported by a \$1.7 million construction budget from New York State agencies. Project scoping is underway for anticipated summer 2026 construction. Priority improvements—identified through the 2021 Chadakoin River Strategic Business Plan and refined by a joint City-County working group—include ADA kayak access, dock repairs at Panzarella Point, improved basin entry, safety



*Public engagement for the Comprehensive Plan included a kayak tour of the Chadakoin River in June.*



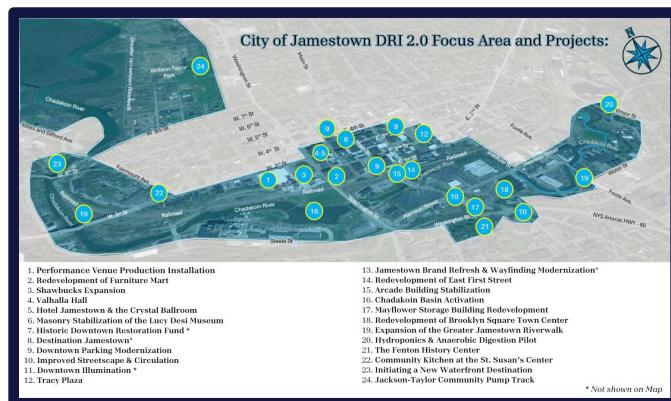
*A newly installed site amenity along the Chadakoin River corridor, completed as part of the Chadakoin Basin Activation.*

measures near the Warner Dam, and coordinated signage throughout the river corridor. The working group is finalizing project components to move forward.

Through the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) program, supported by a \$310,860 Federal DOT grant running from January 2026 through March 2027, the City is developing a comprehensive plan to reduce pedestrian-vehicle crashes. This 18-month initiative engages City departments, schools, community organizations, and health partners to identify safety strategies and position Jamestown for future implementation funding, with the goal of reducing injuries and saving lives.

Jamestown is also moving forward with a \$20,000 Chautauqua County 3% Occupancy Tax grant, awarded in December, to install a mural along the riverfront near the Washington Street Bridge and the Chadakoin Basin/Riverwalk. The project includes securing NYSDOT approvals, developing and reviewing a request for proposals (RFP), selecting a vendor, and engaging the public in the design process. Work is scheduled to begin in 2026, and once completed, the mural will enhance the riverfront experience and serve as a visual landmark for residents and visitors.

In 2025, the City submitted a Round 9 Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) application, building on the success of the 2016 DRI award. The proposal included 24 projects under the *Core to Shore* Initiative, designed to strengthen connections between the Downtown Core and the Chadakoin River. A team of City and partner representatives presented the plan to the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council (WNYREDC) and Empire State Development (ESD) in Buffalo, highlighting Jamestown's vision for revitalization, connectivity, and riverfront investment. The City anticipates a funding determination in 2026.



*A map and project list highlighting proposed initiatives included in the Core to Shore plan, presented this past fall.*

## DEVELOPERS' FORUM & INVESTMENT READINESS

In April, the City hosted a Developers' Forum that drew more than 100 attendees, highlighting development opportunities and available resources in Jamestown. The forum featured representatives from Empire State Development (ESD), New York State Homes & Community Renewal (HCR), the New York State Department of State (DOS), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Chautauqua County and the Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA), the Jamestown Board of Public Utilities (BPU), and the City of Jamestown Department of Development (DOD).

The program included a trolley tour highlighting infill housing opportunities within targeted Pilot Residential Districts, as well as a walking tour of downtown adaptive reuse properties. Key sites showcased included the Furniture Mart, El Greco, Willow Bay, and Blackstone NEY, demonstrating the potential for redevelopment and reinvestment in existing buildings.

Overall, the forum reinforced the City's commitment to being development-ready by aligning public-sector partners, clarifying available tools and incentives, and supporting private investment that advances housing and economic growth in Jamestown.



*More than 100 attendees gathered at Wicked Warren's this past April for the City's Developers' Forum.*



*Attendees take part in a guided tour highlighting key buildings and redevelopment opportunities in downtown Jamestown.*

## PARKS & PUBLIC SPACES

Over the past year, the City continued investing in parks and public spaces across Jamestown, focusing on targeted improvements that enhance safety, functionality, and the overall visitor experience.

Several park facilities received notable upgrades. At Allen Park, new stairs were installed at the bandshell. Roseland Park saw multiple improvements, including a new basketball hoop, a new scoreboard for the Little Field, installation of electric and water service to the pavilion, and full reconstruction of the large baseball field. Nordstrom Park received a new baseball field scoreboard, while Bergman Park saw improvements and additions to its disc golf course.

New park signage was installed at Johnson Street Park, Bergman Park, Jones Memorial Park, Dow Park, Willard Street Tot Lot, Allen Park, and Nordstrom Park, improving visibility and wayfinding throughout the park system.

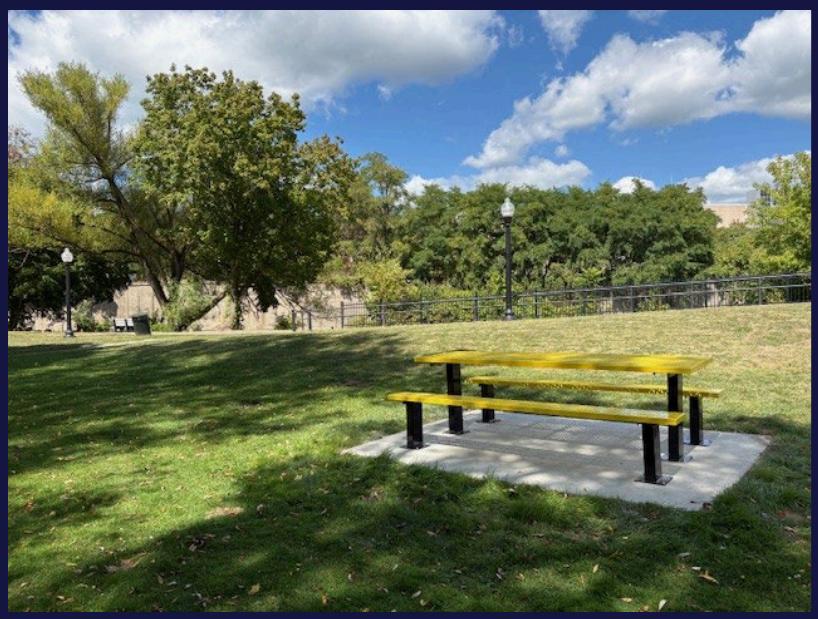


*City officials and partners at the ribbon cutting for the new stairs at the Allen Park Bandshell this past fall.*



*New park signage installed at Nordstrom Park this past year.*

Additional projects expanded access to waterfront and recreational amenities. These included the installation of more than 60 amenities along the Riverwalk, dock improvements at Panzarella Park, and work at the McCrea Boat Landing, supporting greater use of Jamestown's waterfront. Impact Internet also installed Wi-Fi at several parks—including Roseland, Jackson-Taylor, Allen, and Russell E. Diethrick, Jr. Park—providing complimentary internet access at no cost to the City or residents.



*One of several new, brightly colored amenities installed along the Riverwalk this past year.*

These improvements were made possible through the continued work of the City's Parks Department, whose staff support daily maintenance, community events, and year-round efforts to keep parks clean, safe, and welcoming.

Looking ahead to 2026, the City will continue enhancing Jamestown's parks and public spaces. Planned projects include replacing a large section of the McCrea Park boat dock and planting new vegetation along the riverbank. Bergman Park will see improvements to disc golf T-boxes and the addition of a new volleyball court. At Jackson-Taylor Park, a new storage building and roof for the maintenance facility are planned. Along the Riverwalk, installation of amenities will be completed with new trees, shrubs, flowers, signage, and landscaping. Veterans Park will receive a new flagpole with electric lighting.

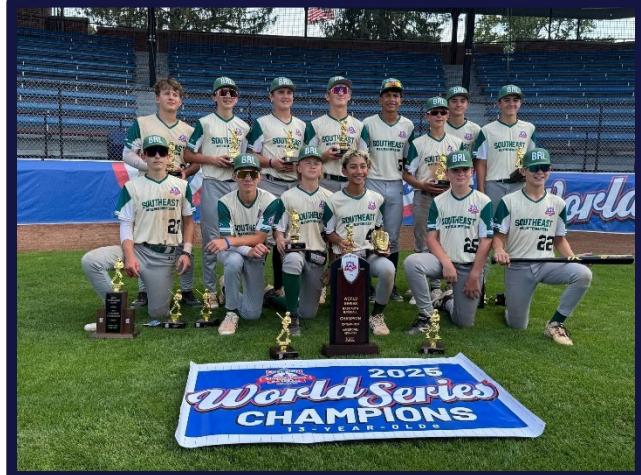
## BABE RUTH WORLD SERIES

Jamestown has a long and proud history as a premier host of the Babe Ruth World Series, welcoming teams from across the United States and abroad for decades. In 2025, the City once again hosted top youth baseball talent at Russell E. Diethrick Stadium, marking the 20<sup>th</sup> Babe Ruth World Series held in Jamestown since the inaugural tournament in 1980.

From August 16–23, the stadium was filled with competition, community pride, and family-friendly events, including a downtown “Meet & Greet” and a tribute honoring Coach Ed Garfinkle and Jamestown’s 45-year Babe Ruth legacy. The Southeast Region’s Tallahassee, Florida team captured the championship following a thrilling final against Stamford, Connecticut.

Hosting the World Series delivers benefits far beyond a week of baseball. Families, fans, and visitors support local businesses, volunteers and community organizations come together, and young athletes are inspired by high-level competition. The event strengthens community connections, showcases Jamestown on the national and international stage, and promotes youth participation in sports.

Building on this success, Jamestown will host the Babe Ruth World Series again from August 15–22, 2026. With championship-level play, community activities, and family-friendly events, the upcoming tournament will continue Jamestown’s long-standing legacy as a cornerstone of youth baseball excellence.



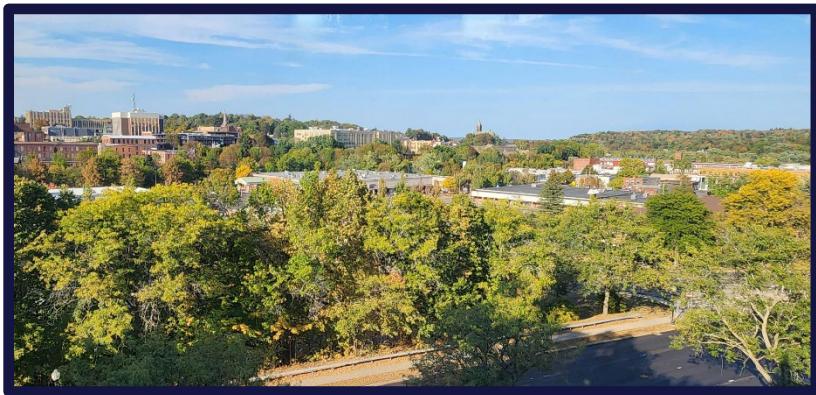
*Members of the Tallahassee, Florida Babe Ruth World Series championship team pose with their trophies during the tournament hosted in Jamestown.*

## TREE CITY USA & URBAN FORESTRY

In 2025, Jamestown marked 44 years as a Tree City USA, reflecting the City's continued commitment to responsible tree management and environmental stewardship. This designation is maintained through an active Tree Board, a comprehensive tree care ordinance, and sustained investment in urban forestry.

Under the leadership of City Arborist Dan Stone, the City continued to balance public safety, tree health, and long-term canopy management across neighborhoods throughout Jamestown.

Over the past year, the City planted 134 trees, removed 165 hazardous or unhealthy trees, trimmed 1,482 trees, and removed 172 stumps to support future plantings—ensuring the City's urban forest remains healthy, resilient, and sustainable.



*A strong urban tree canopy is part of Jamestown's infrastructure—supporting environmental health, neighborhood stability, and quality of life.*



*Four new trees were planted at the Jamestown Board of Public Utilities customer service parking lot off Steele Street in recognition of Jamestown's 44 years as a Tree City USA community and the retirement of BPU General Manager David Leathers.*

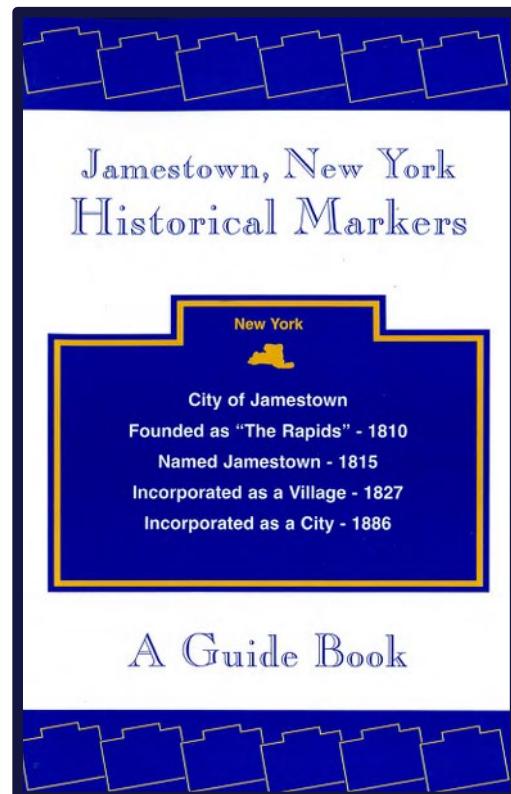
## CITY HISTORIAN APPOINTMENT

In April, Mike Rohlin was appointed as Jamestown's City Historian. A history teacher at Chautauqua Lake Central School, Mr. Rohlin brings a deep knowledge of Chautauqua County and Jamestown history and a strong commitment to public education. He served for 15 years on the Board of the Fenton, including six years as President, and has been a guide at Lakeview Cemetery for 19 years. He has also contributed to the Robert H. Jackson Center's education program.

Known for bringing history to life in the classroom, Mr. Rohlin is dedicated to highlighting what makes Jamestown unique. As City Historian, he will continue engaging the community and ensuring residents of all ages can explore, appreciate, and connect with the City's rich history.



*Mike Rohlin was appointed Jamestown City Historian this past spring.  
(Photo credit: Fenton History Center)*



A Guide Book

## RECOGNIZING OUR RETIREES

This year, the City recognized 12 employees who retired after decades of dedicated service. Their commitment has made a lasting impact on the community, supporting public safety, city operations, and the effective delivery of essential services.

From the Jamestown Fire Department, retirees included Battalion Chief Keith Olson (20 years), Firefighter Christopher Swanson (21 years), Lieutenant Robert Bailey (20 years), and Deputy Fire Chief Matthew Coon (27 years). The Jamestown Police Department recognized Lieutenant Greg Wozneak (20 years), K9 Officer Erik Kraft (16 years), and Kristi Stam (29 years). From the Department of Public Works, retirees included William Wassman (25 years), Mark Schlemmer (29 years), Dana Bova (25 years), and Doug Lindquist (29 years). From the Department of Development, the City recognized Larry Scalise (26 years).

These years of service reflect professionalism, dedication, and a genuine commitment to the City of Jamestown and its residents. The City extends its sincere gratitude to each retiree and wishes them continued success and fulfillment in their well-earned retirements.



*Deputy Fire Chief Matthew Coon on his final day with the Jamestown Fire Department, marking the conclusion of more than 27 years of service.*



*Police Chief Timothy Jackson presents Lieutenant Greg Wozneak with a plaque honoring his service with the Jamestown Police Department.*

## WELCOMING NEW CITY EMPLOYEES

Over the past year, the City of Jamestown welcomed new employees across multiple departments, strengthening its ability to deliver services and support daily operations.

The Jamestown Police Department welcomed 19 new employees, including Officers Nicholas Jones, Emma Hollenbeck, Chase Stevenson, Jonathan Gomez-Martinez, and Lucian Talbett. Additional hires included Donna Giordon and Cathleen Reich in Records; Sydney Robinson and Holly Katta as GIVE Coordinator and Crime Analyst; Elizabeth Nickerson, Elizabeth Smith, Teresa Schober, Heather Chamberlin, Lindsey Swanson, and Crystal Friss as Jail Matrons; Julie Baer, Bonnie Johnson, and Dodi McIntyre as Crossing Guards; and Margaret Brookover in City Court.



*Pictured are Jamestown's newest police officers—Officers Chase Stevenson, Nicholas Jones, Lucian Talbett, Jonathan Gomez-Martinez, and Emma Hollenbeck.*

The Jamestown Fire Department welcomed new firefighters Noah Rugg, Conor Webster, Charles Glenn, and Vincent Certo, supporting staffing levels and operational readiness.

The Department of Public Works added Gavin Pantojas, Kollon Knisley, Symon Trask, Dusty Golem, and Zachary Peterson, strengthening the City's capacity to maintain infrastructure and public spaces.

Additional hires included Hallie Boardman in the Assessor's Office, Jenna Wilson in the Clerk's Office, and Kenny Garcia, Jason Kulaszewski, and Aili Makuch in the Department of Development (DOD).



These new employees reflect a continued investment in the City's workforce and reinforce Jamestown's commitment to delivering reliable, responsive municipal services to the community.

*Jamestown's newest firefighters—PFF Charles Glenn, PFF Conor Webster, PFF Noah Rugg, and PFF Vincent Certo—after completing training at the New York State Fire Academy.*

## SEASONAL SPIRIT: HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST

The City of Jamestown proudly hosted its second annual Holiday Lights Contest, building on the strong participation and enthusiasm of its inaugural year. Community response exceeded expectations, with increased engagement from residents and voters across all six wards.

The City extends sincere thanks to the homeowners who participated by decorating their homes and sharing them with the community, as well as to the many residents who took the time to vote and support their neighborhoods. This initiative would not be successful without that level of public involvement.

The City also thanks its generous sponsors—Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union (SCFCU) and Greater Chautauqua Federal Credit Union (GCFCU)—for their continued support in making this community-focused initiative possible.

The Holiday Lights Contest remains a simple but effective way to bring neighborhoods together, promote civic engagement, and celebrate the season throughout the City of Jamestown.



*Kelly Haaskma (GCFCU), Mayor Kimberly Ecklund, and John Felton (SCFCU) officially launch the 2025 Holiday Lights Contest.*



## AMBASSADOR AHLIN VISITS JAMESTOWN

Last summer, Urban Ahlin, Swedish Ambassador to the United States, visited Jamestown, marking a significant moment of cultural and diplomatic recognition. The visit included site tours highlighting Jamestown's rich Swedish heritage and celebrating the

longstanding ties between Sweden and the United States.



*The Honorable Urban Ahlin, Swedish Ambassador to the United States, speaks at the Robert H. Jackson Center during his summer visit to Jamestown.  
(Photo Credit: Facebook)*

Jamestown's Swedish heritage dates back to waves of Swedish immigrants in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, whose craftsmanship, community values, and traditions helped shape the City's industrial and cultural identity. Swedish settlers played a pivotal role in establishing Jamestown as a national center for furniture manufacturing and contributed meaningfully to civic and cultural life—a legacy that continues today through local organizations, festivals, and community events.

Ambassador Ahlin's visit recognized these historic contributions and reinforced the enduring friendship and shared values between Jamestown and Sweden, underscoring the City's unique role in preserving and celebrating this vibrant cultural heritage.

## BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES (BPU)

In 2025, the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) made significant strides strengthening Jamestown's infrastructure, broadband access, and economic development. Through EntryPoint Networks, the BPU secured a \$29.6 million grant for the Jamestown Community Fiber Project, a citywide, open-access fiber-to-the-home network designed to expand connectivity, competition, and economic opportunity. To date, 164 miles of fiber have been installed, 491 utility poles replaced, and approximately 7,000 passings completed, with residents now able to choose between two internet service providers. A ribbon-cutting held this past October underscored the project's regional significance, with construction continuing through 2026.

The BPU also supported economic growth through initiatives such as the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Retool Conference, which brought together more than 150 regional manufacturers and statewide partners to focus on innovation, workforce development, and business growth.

Across Jamestown's energy, electric, water, wastewater, and district heating systems, the BPU advanced modernization projects to improve reliability, safety, and long-term performance. Power plant improvements included a steam turbine overhaul, removal of the former coal conveyance system, replacement of the Screen House underwater gate, and installation of a new fuel station, along with plans to decommission the legacy fuel depot. Renewable energy efforts included



*A utility-scale rooftop solar installation at Jamestown Community College's Hamilton Collegiate Center provides lease revenue to the College and feeds renewable power into the BPU distribution network.*

a utility-scale rooftop solar project at Jamestown Community College, delivering clean electricity to the BPU network while generating lease revenue for the College.

Electric system upgrades included the Horton Road/D42 conversion to 15 kV, service improvements for major customers, and new service to support development projects. Grid reliability was further strengthened through National Joint Utilities Notification System (NJUNS) reporting, control system upgrades, substation improvements at Chadakoin, Allen Street, and Steele, and upgrades at the Dow Distribution Building. Underground infrastructure work included district heating pipe replacements, leak repairs, and new duct bank installations along key corridors.

Water and wastewater systems also received significant investment. The BPU completed more than 4,000 feet of sanitary sewer slip-lining, advanced planning for major sewer and pump station projects, and completed critical wastewater treatment plant repairs. Water system improvements included watermain replacements, pump station upgrades, rehabilitation of the Cassadaga Well Field, progress toward a new Cassadaga Pump Station supported by state grants, and the launch of a hydrant painting and maintenance program to improve system condition and visibility.

In workforce matters, the BPU and Teamsters Local 264 finalized a four-year labor agreement, marking a key milestone in labor relations. Longtime General Manager David Leathers will retire in January 2026 after 20 years of service, with Deputy General Manager Kris Sellstrom set to assume the role. The City thanks Dave for his leadership, dedication, and decades of service guiding the BPU through sustained growth and modernization.

Externally, the BPU received the CHQ Chamber Business Champion of the Year Award and the Excellence in Innovation Award from the New York Power Authority, recognizing its forward-looking operations and regional economic impact.

Looking ahead, the BPU will complete the fiber project, connecting more than 5,000 homes and businesses, expand technology platforms to improve service delivery, and continue electric modernization through a gas turbine overhaul, the 15 kV conversion north of I-86, new industrial power feeds, and continued upgrades to overhead and underground systems. Renewable energy efforts will include additional solar projects and evaluation of next-generation assets such as battery storage and fuel cells. Water and wastewater improvements will continue, including the Cassadaga Pump Station, remaining watermain replacements, and upgrades to lift stations, digesters, and sand filters. The BPU will also support major development initiatives, including Electrovaya, Baker Street Apartments, the Salvation Army relocation, and school facility upgrades.

Together, these efforts reflect the BPU's ongoing commitment to modern, reliable, and sustainable utility systems that directly support Jamestown's residents, businesses, and long-term economic vitality.



*Chautauqua County Chamber President and CEO Dan Heitzenrater presents the CHQ Chamber Business Champion of the Year Award to Jamestown BPU's Dave Leathers, Kris Sellstrom, and Ellen Ditonto.*

**“People Over Politics”**



**Accountability, Integrity,  
Transparency, People First!**