

CITY CLERK

SANDY LAPERA, CITY CLERK

FEBRUARY
2026

MONTHLY REPORT

CITY ENGINEER

JEFF ROWE

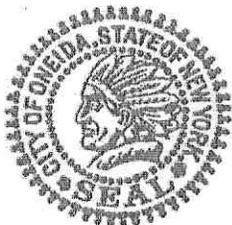
FEBRUARY
2026

MONTHLY REPORT

City of Oneida
Engineering | Public Works

February 2026 Monthly Report

Prepared By: Jeffrey A. Rowe, P.E.
City Engineer



CITY OF ONEIDA
DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS
109 N. Main Street, Oneida, NY 13421

CITY OF ONEIDA - ENGINEERING | PUBLIC WORKS

Monthly Report – February 2026

A. Public Works Monthly Recap (Streets, Traffic, Garage, Sanitary Sewer Collection)

Public Works staff performed the General Maintenance tasks listed below during February 2026:

- Snow plowing, salting, snow removals – numerous days (nearly 40% of workdays!)
- Hauling snow piles
- Remove snow from downtown areas – snowbanks and all sidewalks
- Cold patch repairs
- Green waste pickup and chipper truck – Christmas trees and brush
- Several tree removals
- Masonry work – repaired broken sidewalks, manholes and catch basins
- CDL class training – 2 days (2 employees)
- Address sewer list (Fridays)
- Broken sewer main on West Elm Street
- Assist Water Department – Hydrovac truck
- Assist Traffic Department – Christmas lights take down, streetlight/traffic light repairs
- Performed some routine vehicle maintenance
- Replaced fuses for two streetlights along Main Street which were unresponsive
- Checked voltage for several inoperable streetlights along Main Street (in front of City Hall); underground wiring damaged and require replacement (outside contractor)
- Coordination with National Grid regarding voltage issue for pole at Main Street and Washington Street
- Traffic signal at Main Street and Elm Street – diagnose and completed adjustments to address cycling issue
- Completed Annual Certifications for Mt. Hope and Higinbotham Dams
- Updated street/road inventory and incorporated into GIS system
- Prepared draft easements for Higinbotham Brook

Staffing Note:

- Conducted interviews with several candidates for Laborer with CDL position. Anticipate new employee starting work on March 16th.

B. Wastewater Treatment Plant

- Treatment plant general maintenance ongoing
- Commenced chlorinating Return Activated Sludge for filamentous bacteria
- Updated sewer billing calculations for HP Hood and Town of Verona for 2026

C. Buildings

- General maintenance ongoing
- Experienced failure of 1 boiler due to extremely cold weather. Worked on boiler for City Hall (temporary source of heat); damaged boiler needs replacement
- Installed TV mount in Lobby at PD
- Repaired floor machine at PD
- Repaired motor for roof top heating unit at Court building with Honeywell
- Cleaning out storage room at PD
- Painted Chief's office at PD
- Replaced lock set at Traffic Building
- Installed new water fountain at City Hall

CITY OF ONEIDA - ENGINEERING | PUBLIC WORKS

Monthly Report – February 2026

- Started repainting of Comptroller’s office at City Hall

D. Capital Projects

- Please find below a brief status update of on-going projects:

2026 Current Master Capital Project Summary		
Description	Status as of 2/28/26	Estimated Completion of Phase
WTP - Glenmore Dam Improvements	Construction	October 2026
Main Street Pump Station	Evaluation	Spring 2026
Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) Improvements	Secure Funding	Spring 2026
WWTP Improvements – Phase 3	Construction	Spring 2026
Sidewalk Replacement Program	Evaluation	TBD

- **WTP – Glenmore Dam Improvements**
Status: Amended bond resolution for increase in total project cost adopted during February. Finalized Change Order No. 3 for H&B and Amendment No. 6 for Ramboll. Construction activities temporarily shut down for Winter. Anticipate work to resume during late March. Grant funding disbursement request submitted to NYSEFC.
- **Main Street Pump Station**
Status: Technical Memorandum completed which evaluates condition of existing pump station and provides recommendations for improvements. City currently reviewing recommendations and next steps.
- **Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) Improvements**
Status: Solicited support letters for funding need for STAG grant application. Applications being prepared for submittal in March.
- **WWTP Improvements – Phase 3**
Status: Completed action items for influent pump installation which were identified by Vendor. Scheduled startup of influent pumps for February. Grant funding disbursement request submitted to NYSEFC.
- **Sidewalk Replacement Program**
Status: Submit remaining documents to DASNY for sidewalk grant reimbursement. Prepared draft bid documents and submitted to RPDB for review.

COMPTROLLER

JESSICA KAISER-DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

FEBRUARY
2026

MONTHLY REPORT

CITY OF ONEIDA
OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER

CITY OF ONEIDA-FINANCE DEPARTMENT

To: Manager Kyle Lovell
From: Lee Ann Wells *Outsource Controller-The Bonadio Group*
CC: Brett Schrader, CPA *Partner-The Bonadio Group*
Date: 3/9/26
Re: Monthly Status Report – February 2026

The Finance Department has been maintaining daily, weekly, and monthly activities as follows:

Key accomplishments for February 2026:

- Provided BAN Renewal Due Diligence Questionnaire and Information Request
- Attended Standard & Poors Rating Call- A+ Rating with a Stable Outlook
- Rolled Encumbrances into 2026
- Processed payroll accrual, interest and capital interest allocations for 2025
- Processed WWTP & Glenmore Dam Grant Reimbursement requests
- Worked with Planning Director on DRI Reimbursements
- 2024 Audit was finalized

Regular activities within the Finance Department include:

- Month End Reconciliations for 22 bank accounts
- Budget Maintenance and Amendment requests/processing
- Capital Project Reconciliations
- Month End Chargebacks
- Voucher processing
- Approving purchase orders
- Maintaining workers compensation and insurance claims
- Payroll processing
- Civil service administration
- Assisting other departments with various issues and questions
- All general ledger account maintenance including necessary journal entries

Go forward comments:

- 2025 Audit should begin as early as possible
- All policies need to be updated.
- Fixed Asset program needs to be implemented
- **The General Fund Balance is approx. 18.66% for 2025 & 16.93% for 2026-A Fund Balance Resolution is necessary to decrease the allowable fund balance to not drop below a % deemed appropriate for 2026.**

FIRE

DEPARTMENT

SCOTT JONES, CHIEF

FEBRUARY
2026

MONTHLY REPORT

**CITY OF ONEIDA
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
BUREAU OF FIRE

Scott Jones
Fire Chief



109 North Main Street
Oneida, New York 13421
TEL: 315-363-1910
FAX: 315-363-3437
sjones@oneidacityny.gov

***Oneida Fire Dept
Monthly Reports***

February, 2026

February 2026

	YTD
February, 2026	\$2,352.31
FIRE	
RESCUE	3048.21
NON-FIRE	934.56
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TOTALS	\$6,335.08

TYPE OF CALLS REPORT
AND NUMBER OF CALLS

FIRE	5
RESCUE	131
NON FIRE	83
TOTAL	219



Overtime Expenditures

Acct	Start Bal	This period	YTD Bal
Regular 102	\$120,000.00	\$14,405.28	\$101,514.07
Train/EMS 107	\$5,000.00	\$300.36	\$4,585.71
Fire Mar 108	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00
Train/Fire 109	\$22,000.00		\$22,000.00
Personal Leave 112	\$10,000.00	\$325.86	\$9,348.28
Short Shift 114	\$30,000.00		\$30,000.00

	YTD Call Comparison		DIFF
	2025	2026	
FIRE	11	7	-4
RESCUE	212	278	66
NON FIRE	162	148	-14
Totals:	385	433	48

CITY OF ONEIDA FIRE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
BUREAU OF FIRE

Fire Marshal's Office
Brian B. Burkle Jr., Fire Marshal
Andrew P. Bennett, Assistant Fire Marshal



109 North Main Street
Oneida, New York 13421
TEL: 315-363-1910
FAX: 315-363-3437
bburkle@oneidacityny.gov
abennett@oneidacityny.gov

FIRE MARSHAL MONTHLY REPORT TOTAL COMMERCIAL AND PUBLIC ASSEMBLY PROPERTIES - 403 FEBRUARY 2026

TOTAL INSPECTION HOURS	44
TOTAL INVESTIGATION HOURS	18.5
TOTAL FIRE PREVENTION HOURS	7
TOTAL OFFICE HOURS	69.5

OFFICE BREAKDOWN	TOTAL INSPECTIONS
BUSINESS INSPECTION	10
BUSINESS REINSPECTION	9
BUSINESS C OF C	2
PUBLIC ASSEMBLY INSPECTION	0
PUBLIC ASSEMBLY REINSPECTION	2
PUBLIC ASSEMBLY C OF C	1
OPERATING PERMITS	1
SOLID FUEL BURNING DEVICE	0
ORDER TO VACATE	0
VACANT BUILDING INSPECTIONS	0
TENT INSPECTIONS	0
FIREWORKS DISPLAY INSPECTION	0
OCCUPANCY LOAD RAINING	0
COMPLAINTS	0
APPEARANCE TICKETS	0
NO SHOW	2
STOP WORK ORDER	0
FOOD TRUCK INSPECTION	0

OFFICE BREAKDOWN	TOTAL HOURS
MEETINGS	7
PLAN REVIEW	2
PRE PLAN	7

OFFICE BREAKDOWN CONT'D**TOTAL HOURS**

KNOX BOX WORK	0
FIRE EXTINGUISHER REPAIR	0
911 ADDRESSING	0
MISCELLEANOUS	4
CODES TRAINING	3.5
FIRE INVESTIGATION	18
FIRE INVESTIGATION TRAINING	0
FIRE PREVENTION	0
SMOKE DETECTOR INSTALLATION	0.5
SMOKE DETECTORS INSTALLED	1
CO DETECTORS INSTALLED	0

FIRE MARSHAL' S ACTIVITIES

Fire investigation completed at 217 Genesee Street.

Pre-plan completed for Seneca Fields Apartments and Oneida High School.

Fire investigation completed at 5919 Peterboro Road.

Walkthrough and pre-plan of NYSP Troop D.

CITY OF ONEIDA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
BUREAU OF FIRE

Scott Jones, *Chief*



109 North Main Street
Oneida, New York 13421
TEL: 315-363-1910
FAX: 315-363-3437

Fire Department Revenue- February, 2026

Alarm Permits:	Invoiced sent beginning of August
Solid Fuel Burning Permits:	None requested
Tent Inspections:	None requested
Fireworks	None requested
Fire Inspections:	\$640

Inspected Properties:

611 Stone St
504 Lenox Ave
1022 Oneida Plaza Dr
2184 Glenwood Plaza
118 Phelps St
1049 Northside Plaza
161 Phelps St
168 Main St
115 & 117 Main St
102 Madison St

Re-Inspections: 12

03/03/2026
9:50:43 AM
Monique Ludwig

Oneida City Clerk

Page: 1

General Licensing Report
For License Type: Fire Department / All Fee Types
Date Range: 02/01/2026 to 02/28/2026

<u>License Type/Fee Type</u>	<u>License #</u>	<u>Issue Date/ Expiration Date</u>	<u>Licensee</u>	<u>Qty/Total</u>	<u>Notes</u>
				Quantity Sub Total:	0
				Amount Sub Total:	\$0.00
					Quantity Grand Total: 0
					Amount Grand Total: \$0.00

CITY OF ONEIDA
OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER

CITY OF ONEIDA-FINANCE DEPARTMENT

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PARKS & RECREATION

LUKE GRIFF, DIRECTOR

FEBRUARY
2026

MONTHLY REPORT

Rick Rossi
Mayor



Lucas M. Griff
Director

CITY OF ONEIDA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
ONEIDA RECREATION CENTER, 217 CEDAR STREET
ONEIDA, NEW YORK 13421
Telephone: (315) 363-3590 Fax: (315) 363-6062
www.oneidacity.com

Oneida Recreation Department Coordinator
Programming Report February 2026

Our winter youth basketball programs, Skills & Drills and Jr. NBA, have officially wrapped up for the season. Combined, these programs served over 180 youth participants and continue to be a cornerstone of our youth recreation offerings. A highlight of the program was the involvement of numerous JV and Varsity basketball players who volunteered their time on Saturday mornings to help run Skills & Drills. Their mentorship provides younger athletes with positive role models and strengthens the connection between our youth programs and the high school teams. It has also been encouraging to see many of these younger participants attending and supporting the JV and Varsity teams during their home games.

Pickleball continues to be one of our most popular daytime programs. Sessions are held Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, with an average of 18–20 senior participants per session. The program provides a valuable opportunity for seniors to stay active, socialize, and remain engaged in the community.

Our Rage in the Cage softball program is currently underway for girls in grades 3–9. The program focuses on helping players prepare for the upcoming softball season and is led by our modified softball coaches on Sunday mornings. Additionally, we have brought in a professional hitting coach to assist with instruction, helping ensure that players are learning proper swing mechanics and consistent fundamentals throughout the entire softball program.

The Men's Basketball League (MUNY) continues to run smoothly with nine teams participating this season. Games are held Monday nights, with four games scheduled each evening, providing competitive recreational opportunities for adult players in the community.

Our Co-Ed Volleyball League is also in season and continues to attract strong participation, featuring eight competitive teams and seven recreational teams. The league provides both high-level competition and recreational play opportunities for participants of all skill levels.

During February's Winter Break, the Recreation Department hosted a variety of youth activities to keep children active and engaged while school was out. Programs included Speed & Agility clinics, basketball clinics, softball and baseball clinics, open gym sessions, and Tot Fun & Run activities for younger children. These programs provided a safe and fun environment for youth to stay active during the break.

Planning is already underway for several upcoming community events, including the Easter Egg Hunt, Oneida Fall Fest, and Oneida Safety Week. We are excited to continue partnering with many outstanding local

organizations throughout the community to help make these events successful. These collaborative efforts continue to have a very positive impact on community engagement and participation.

We also hosted another Jump & Jam Fest at the Oneida Kallet Civic Center. The event featured bounce houses, face painting, arts and crafts, and dance music for children and families. The event was very well received and provided another fun and active opportunity for families to gather and enjoy time together.

Our Zumba program continues to grow in popularity, averaging 35–40 participants each week. The group also hosted a special Valentine's Day-themed Zumba event at the Kallet Civic Center, which was very well attended and a great success.

Overall, our winter programs and events continue to see strong participation and community support. The Parks & Recreation Department remains committed to providing quality programming and opportunities that bring residents of all ages together through recreation, fitness, and community engagement.

Respectively submitted,

Justin Acker
Recreation Coordinator

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

STEVE VONDERWEIDT, DIRECTOR

FEBRUARY
2026

MONTHLY REPORT



CITY OF ONEIDA
Department of Planning &
Development



City of Oneida
Planning & Development Department
Monthly Report

Reporting Period: February 1, 2026 – February 28, 2026

Prepared by: Steve Vonderweidt, Director of Planning & Development

Executive Summary

February 2026 was an active month for the Planning & Development Department, with significant work focused on regulatory development, grant coordination, project governance review, and preparation for upcoming Planning Commission / Zoning Board of Appeals (PCZBA) actions.

A major initiative during the reporting period involved identifying and addressing regulatory gaps within the City's zoning code related to wireless telecommunications towers. In response to outside industry interest in potential tower siting within the City, the Department began drafting a zoning text amendment establishing comprehensive performance standards for wireless communication facilities.

In addition, the Department continued coordination on Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) projects, supported preparation of the March PCZBA meeting materials, and worked with consultant partners on a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant submission focused on downtown streetscape improvements.

The Department also continued outreach and coordination to finalize membership for the City's Comprehensive Plan Committee, positioning the City to begin the Comprehensive Plan and Form-Based Code update process.

Overall, February's work emphasized proactive regulatory development, continued oversight of major capital projects, and strategic positioning for upcoming grant and planning initiatives.

Planning Commission & Zoning Board Activity (PCZBA)



CITY OF ONEIDA
Department of Planning &
Development



February included extensive preparation for the upcoming March 10, 2026 Planning Commission / Zoning Board of Appeals meeting.

Department staff prepared and finalized the full PCZBA meeting packet, including:

- General Meeting Checklist
- Long and Short Agendas
- Finalized minutes from the February 10, 2026 meeting
- Agenda Item 1 packet materials (121 St. Joseph Place – Site Plan Review)
- SEQRA documentation including the Short Environmental Assessment Form and draft Negative Declaration
- General Municipal Law §239-m referral documentation submitted to Madison County
- Roll-call Site Plan Checklist
- Draft Resolution of Approval

Staff verified procedural compliance with Chapter 190 (Zoning), SEQRA environmental review requirements, and County referral requirements before finalizing the packet.

Conditions of approval were drafted addressing grading, drainage, lighting, parking layout, and plan conformance to ensure that any potential approval remains consistent with City zoning regulations and adopted site plan review standards.

This preparation ensures the PCZBA is positioned to conduct its review efficiently while maintaining full procedural compliance.

Codes & Permitting Coordination

Planning & Development continued coordination with Codes Enforcement staff regarding zoning interpretations, permit applicability, and regulatory guidance.

Staff also responded to resident and property owner inquiries related to zoning and land use questions, helping clarify regulatory requirements and appropriate next steps for property improvements and potential development activity.

Ongoing collaboration with Codes staff remains important to ensuring consistent application of City regulations and clear communication with the public.



CITY OF ONEIDA
Department of Planning &
Development



Development & Business Activity

While no major development applications were submitted during February, the Department continued to engage with outside parties expressing interest in potential projects within the City.

In particular, the Department responded to preliminary inquiries regarding telecommunications infrastructure development, which ultimately prompted a broader review of the City's zoning framework governing wireless communication facilities.

This review led to the initiation of a zoning amendment designed to strengthen the City's regulatory framework prior to receipt of a formal application.

Grants, Funding & Capital Projects

Grant coordination and capital project planning remained an important component of the Department's workload throughout February.

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant – Downtown Streetscape

Planning & Development continued coordination with C&S Engineers regarding preparation of the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant application focused on downtown streetscape improvements.

Department staff reviewed narrative materials, coordinated mapping and project documentation, and worked to ensure the proposed improvements align with the City's broader downtown revitalization strategy.

The proposed TAP project is intended to complement existing Downtown Revitalization Initiative investments by improving pedestrian safety, accessibility, and connectivity between key downtown destinations and recreational assets such as the Oneida Rail Trail.

Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI)

Veterans Memorial Park – Project Documentation Review



CITY OF ONEIDA
Department of Planning &
Development



During February, Planning & Development coordinated with the City Manager, Clerk's Office, and Common Council members to assemble and review historical documentation related to the Veterans Memorial Park project under the Downtown Revitalization Initiative.

This effort was undertaken in response to Council questions regarding the structure of the original DRI award and the evolution of project cost estimates during the design phase.

Key actions included:

- Reviewing the original DRI Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and State award documentation
- Examining relevant Common Council resolutions advancing DRI projects into the design phase
- Confirming that the State DRI award allocated \$1,059,000 to the Veterans Memorial Park project
- Reviewing SIP budget categories including demolition, site preparation, park improvements, and design services
- Comparing the SIP conceptual estimate of approximately \$1.36 million to the current 30% design estimate of approximately \$1.74 million

Staff prepared supporting materials to help Council understand the differences between conceptual estimates used during the DRI application phase and the more detailed cost estimates produced during engineering design.

The Department also outlined potential phasing considerations and funding implications should Council wish to modify or stage project components.

Strategic Planning & Comprehensive Plan

February included continued work related to preparation for the City's Comprehensive Plan and Form-Based Code update.

Planning & Development conducted outreach and vetting of potential Comprehensive Plan Committee members to ensure a balanced group representing diverse backgrounds, professional experience, and community perspectives.



CITY OF ONEIDA
Department of Planning &
Development



The goal of this effort is to assemble a committee capable of guiding long-range discussions related to housing, economic development, land use policy, and neighborhood character.

The Department anticipates convening the first committee meeting in the near future once final confirmations are complete.

Interdepartmental & External Coordination

Planning & Development maintained regular coordination with City leadership and internal departments throughout February.

This included communication with:

- City Manager's Office
- Corporation Counsel
- City Engineering staff
- Codes Enforcement
- Clerk's Office

These interactions focused primarily on regulatory review, zoning amendment development, project documentation, and grant coordination.

Challenges, Risks, or Constraints

The following constraints were noted during the reporting period:

- Identification of regulatory gaps within the City's zoning code related to telecommunications infrastructure
- Managing concurrent responsibilities related to zoning amendments, board preparation, and capital project coordination
- Responding to Council requests for historical documentation and clarification related to active DRI projects

These items continue to be monitored as the Department advances both regulatory and project-related initiatives.



CITY OF ONEIDA
Department of Planning &
Development



Key Wins, Milestones & Progress

Notable progress during February included:

- Initiation of a comprehensive zoning amendment addressing wireless telecommunications towers
- Completion of SEQR documentation supporting the proposed zoning text amendment
- Successful preparation of the March 2026 PCZBA meeting packet
- Completion of detailed historical review of Veterans Memorial Park DRI documentation
- Continued advancement of the TAP streetscape grant strategy
- Continued progress toward formation of the Comprehensive Plan Committee

Closing Reflection

February 2026 represented a month focused on strengthening the City's regulatory framework while continuing oversight of active development and capital planning initiatives.

By proactively addressing zoning gaps, coordinating grant strategies, and supporting informed Council decision-making regarding major projects, the Planning & Development Department continues to position the City for responsible growth and long-term community investment.

The work completed during February will help ensure that future development proposals are evaluated under clear, modern standards while advancing projects that improve the City's public spaces and infrastructure.

Steve M. Vonderweidt, MBA | Director of Planning & Development
109 North Main Street | Oneida, NY 13421
Phone: (315) 363-7467 | svonderweidt@oneidacityny.gov | www.oneidacityny.gov

POLICE

DEPARTMENT

STEVE LOWELL, POLICE CHIEF

FEBRUARY
2026

MONTHLY REPORT



Steven Lowell
Chief of Police

CITY OF ONEIDA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
BUREAU OF POLICE

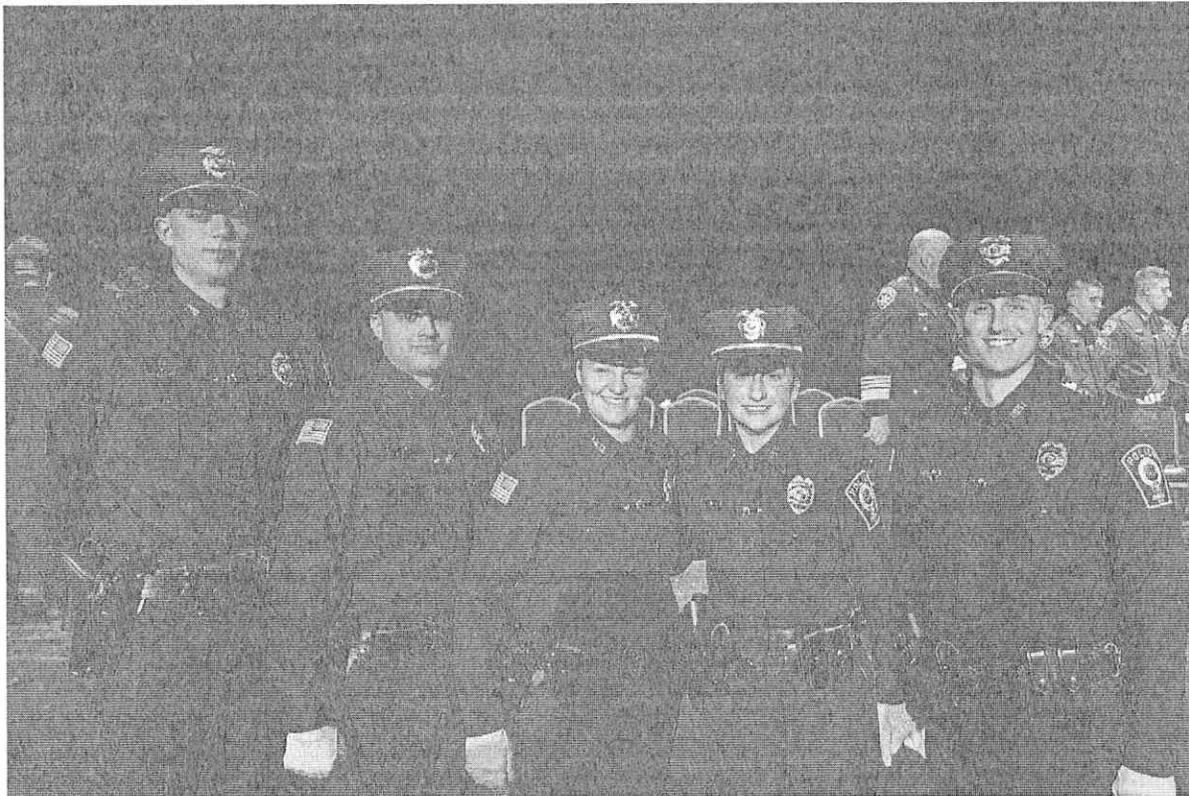


108 Main Street
Oneida, New York 13421
Phone (315) 363-9111

February 2026 Monthly Report

Overtime: The Department had a total of \$6,925 in overtime for the month of February before any reimbursements were requested. The Department endeavors to keep overtime costs responsible while providing the best quality services.

Activity: As a matter of continued exceptional service, during the month of February Oneida Police handled 1,012 service incidents, issued 205 traffic tickets and 54 parking tickets, and made 103 arrests.



On February 26th, the Oneida City Police Department celebrated the successful graduation of five officers from the Mohawk Valley Community College Police Academy. Officers West, Lyon, Milana, Bowman-McCoy, and Klossner completed several months of rigorous academic and physical training in preparation for their law enforcement careers. The academy curriculum includes instruction in criminal law, defensive tactics, firearms proficiency, emergency response, and community policing principles. We congratulate these officers on this achievement and welcome them as members of the Oneida City Police Department.

CITY OF ONEIDA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
BUREAU OF POLICE



In February, the Oneida City Police Department recognized Reverend Dr. Jack Fucci, Jr. during a Common Council meeting for his ten years of service as City Chaplain. Dr. Fucci has provided dedicated spiritual and emotional support to members of the Police Department and the broader community during both routine and critical incidents. The Department appreciates Dr. Fucci's continued commitment and his longstanding role in supporting the well-being of those who serve the City of Oneida.

The Department also highlighted the life-saving actions of C.A.R.E. Specialist Julie Mosley during a community outreach event held at a local church. During the event, a citizen alerted Julie to an individual across the street who appeared to be experiencing the effects of a drug overdose. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, Julie responded immediately and, with the assistance of a colleague, administered Narcan while emergency medical services were contacted. EMS arrived shortly thereafter and continued treatment. Julie's quick recognition of the emergency and decisive action helped save the individual's life and demonstrates the ongoing value of the department's C.A.R.E. Specialist program and its role in supporting both public safety and community health.

CITY OF ONEIDA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
BUREAU OF POLICE

Members of the Oneida City Police Department also participated in the kickoff meeting for the state-recognized Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program during the month of February. Lieutenant Ryan Warner and Chief Steve Lowell attended the meeting as part of the Department’s ongoing collaboration with Madison County Mental Health and other community partners. This initiative is supported through a grant that reimburses the City up to \$1,500 per officer who completes the specialized training. Crisis Intervention Team training provides officers with advanced skills in de-escalation, crisis communication, and strategies for safely responding to individuals experiencing behavioral health crises. Participation in the program further strengthens the Department’s commitment to compassionate and effective crisis response within the community.

During the month of February, the Department also shared information with the public regarding upcoming changes to the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles point system for traffic violations, which took effect on February 16, 2026. The updated system includes stricter point assessments for certain violations, the addition of points for some offenses that previously carried none, and an expanded look-back period of 24 months instead of 18 months. The changes also allow the DMV to issue earlier warnings and implement license suspensions sooner for drivers who accumulate excessive points. The Department provided this information to help educate drivers and encourage safe and responsible driving behavior within the community.

2026 INCREASES			
In DMV Traffic Violation Points			
EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 16, 2026			
VIOLATION	OLD POINTS	NEW POINTS	
Speeding (per 1-10 MPH range)	3	4	
Speeding in a construction zone (any speed over the limit)	VARIES	8	
Using a cell phone while driving	5	6	
Passing or overtaking a stopped school bus	5	8	
Reckless driving	5	8	
Failure to yield to a pedestrian	3	5	
Following too closely	4	5	
DWI/DWAI/DWAI-Drugs	0	8-11	
Aggravated Unlicensed Operation	0	11	
Facilitating Aggravated Unlicensed Operation	0	5	

CITY OF ONEIDA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
BUREAU OF POLICE

Message from the Chief of Police

As we move into the spring months and the weather begins to improve, I want to remind everyone to please drive safely and remain mindful of the increased number of pedestrians, bicyclists, and recreational users throughout our community. Warmer weather naturally brings more activity to our streets, parks, and trails, and a little extra caution behind the wheel can go a long way in keeping everyone safe.

*We are also seeing a growing number of electric bicycles (e-bikes) in use. E-bikes can be a convenient and environmentally friendly way to travel, but it is important that riders understand where they may be legally operated. In general, e-bikes are permitted on most roadways and bike lanes where traditional bicycles are allowed. However, they **may not be operated on sidewalks**, and riders should always yield to pedestrians and follow all traffic laws. Higher-speed e-bike classifications may also be restricted from certain multi-use trails. Riders should always wear appropriate safety gear and remain attentive to their surroundings.*

Community awareness plays a key role in public safety, and we ask residents to help share this information with family members, neighbors, and young riders who may be using these devices.

*Finally, I encourage everyone to **download the department's Police Mobile App** to stay informed about community alerts, safety updates, and department announcements. It is one of the quickest and most reliable ways to stay connected with your police department.*

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in keeping our community safe.

- Chief Steve Lowell



Check us out on Facebook and download our mobile app for emergency notifications and more!