

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERVISOR

As we head into fall, I want to reflect on a productive year for the Town of Ogden and discuss the Town's 2027 budget.

This summer, we welcomed residents to Pineway Ponds Park for our America 250 celebration which was a huge success. We completed the new access road for a new park on Buffalo Road, allowing park improvements to move forward. Renovations to the Parks and Recreation wing of the Community Center are also complete, creating more space for senior and youth programming, with much of the work funded through Monroe County ARPA funding. We also received a \$24,950 New York State Archives grant to improve the management and accessibility of records at Town Hall.

As we prepare the 2027 budget, the Town faces the same pressures as families and businesses. Health insurance, mandatory retirement contributions, utilities, vehicles, equipment, road salt, and essential materials continue to rise. For several years, inflation and state-driven expenses have grown faster than the revenues towns are permitted to raise under New York's tax cap, and that gap compounds each year. For 2027, the State-calculated inflation factor is 3.13%, yet allowable levy growth remains capped at 2%.

Ogden has consistently adopted low-cost budgets and worked aggressively to stretch every taxpayer dollar. We participate in a municipal health insurance consortium, share services with neighboring municipalities, pursue grants, and use intermunicipal agreements to reduce costs and generate revenue. Our new fuel facility eliminates administrative fees while generating revenue through partnerships with agencies. Relocating the Senior Nutrition Program to the Community Center will also eliminate rental and maintenance expenses while expanding services.

These efforts matter, but their savings are increasingly overtaken by unfunded mandates and costs Albany places under the Town's cap without corresponding funding, including Ambulance District and library funding. That does not diminish our work; it makes our advocacy even more important.

I recently joined Town Supervisors from across New York in Albany, where we voted on a bipartisan basis for common sense reforms that would lower costs for residents. I also presented the State Budget Director with a specific proposal to help address our growing highway expenses, which he is taking back to the Governor for consideration. We will continue finding solutions locally while pressing the State for meaningful reform.

Preparing a responsible budget requires difficult decisions. Our goal remains unchanged: protect the services residents rely on while managing taxpayer dollars responsibly. I encourage residents to attend the **public hearing on the 2027 Preliminary Budget on Wednesday, October 28, at 7:00 PM at Ogden Town Hall**. It is an opportunity to learn more and offer comments before adoption.

Thank you for your continued support and for making Ogden a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.



Mike Zale
Town Supervisor

Aaron Baker
Councilman

Sal Gerbino
Councilman

Josh Hinman
Councilman

Steve Toms
Councilman

Town Board
2nd and 4th
Wed. at 7 PM

Planning Board
2nd Thurs. at 7 PM

Zoning Board
1st Thurs. at 7 PM

Conservation Board
1st Tues. at 7 PM

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

AGOSTINO MINEO, ACTING ASSESSOR

Exemption Renewal Applications for 2027

Mailing of Exemption Renewal Applications: Renewal applications for the Low-Income Senior Citizens, Persons with Disabilities and Limited Incomes, and other renewable exemptions will be mailed to current exemption recipients by the end of October 2026.

You may be eligible for the Low-Income Senior Citizens Exemption if you are, or will be, age 65 by December 31, 2027; have owned and resided on the property for at least 12 months; and the 2025 income of all owners was below \$58,400.

Additional eligibility requirements may apply. All new and renewal exemption applications must be submitted to the Assessor's Office by March 1, 2027.

New Enhanced STAR Process

For property owners who may be eligible for the Enhanced STAR exemption, there is no longer an application process. If you are, or will be, age 65 by December 31, 2027; have been receiving the Basic STAR exemption on your current property since prior to 2015; and the 2025 income of all owners was below \$113,550, the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance will mail you a letter once eligibility has been determined.

The change to Enhanced STAR will be automatic and requires no action from the property owner unless additional information is requested by the State.

Visit OgdenNY.gov for exemption forms and STAR information, or call the Assessor's Office at (585) 617-6107 with questions.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

DOUG CASE, HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Brush Pickup

October marks the final month for brush pickup. Please plan accordingly and have any remaining brush ready for collection.

Leaf Vacuuming

As the leaves begin to fall, our leaf vacuuming service will begin. Please pile leaves in a row along the edge of the road, no more than five feet from the road edge. Crews will make their way through Town weekly to vacuum leaf piles.

Leaves placed in paper bags, containers, or plastic will

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

SUSAN DUGGAN, BUILDING INSPECTOR

To streamline the permitting process, the Building Department recently began accepting permit applications online.

The new process is going smoothly, and we hope to offer online payment options for permits soon. To submit an application, visit the Forms & Permits section of our website and click the link to apply online for a Residential Building Permit.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact the Building Department at (585) 617-6195.



CLERK'S OFFICE

NOELLE BURLEY, TOWN CLERK

Visit the Town Clerk's Office for hunting and fishing licenses, dog licenses, marriage licenses, and passport services by appointment. We process both passport books and passport cards, with routine and expedited options available. Visit the Town Clerk page at OgdenNY.gov or travel.state.gov for current passport processing times, fees, and requirements.

Eligible passport renewals can be mailed directly to the National Passport Processing Center. A trackable USPS delivery method is recommended when mailing renewal applications and supporting documents.

Our drop box, located outside the main entrance to Town Hall near the flagpole, is available for payments when the office is closed. Please use checks or money orders only and include the appropriate payment stub.

The Town Clerk's Office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. For questions or to schedule a passport appointment, call (585) 617-6111.

not be collected. These leaves may be dropped off at the designated drop-off area at the Highway Department, located at 2432 South Union Street.

Snow & Ice

As winter approaches, residents are encouraged to check their mailboxes, posts, and mounts to make sure they are secure and in good condition. During snow removal, the force of flying snow alone can displace an already weakened mailbox, mount, or post.

Please make any necessary repairs or replacements before the winter season. The Highway Department only replaces mailboxes damaged by a Town plow. Replacements consist of a standard galvanized steel mailbox and a 4x4 wooden post.



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Keep Leaves & Yard Waste Out of Storm Drains

Every fall, colorful leaves and yard debris pile up quickly. While it may be tempting to sweep or blow them into the street, storm drains, or ditches — this simple action can cause big problems for our community and waterways.

Why It Matters

- Clogged Drains – Leaves and grass block storm drains, leading to street flooding.
- Water Pollution – As leaves and yard waste decompose in water, they release nutrients that fuel harmful algae blooms and reduce oxygen for fish.

HISTORIAN'S OFFICE

JESSE DIEHL, TOWN HISTORIAN

It has been a busy and exciting year in the Historian's Office as we celebrated the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence! Leading up to the Town's America 250 celebration, we held a town-wide patriotic decorating contest, encouraging residents to show their American spirit. We received many great submissions, with the winners recognized during the July 2 celebration.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

ANDREA HANSEN, DIRECTOR

As the seasons change, we're looking forward to an exciting fall and winter!



Our Recreation Department received several upgrades this summer, including renovated restrooms and a new kitchen. These improvements will provide new opportunities for programming and allow us to transition our Senior Nutrition Program from the Ogden Senior Center to the Community Center campus. In the meantime, the program continues to offer lunches on Mon., Wed., and Fri., along with seasonal events including our Harvest Party, Veterans Day Celebration, and Holiday Party.

OGDEN FARMERS' LIBRARY

JOHN COHEN, DIRECTOR

Have you stopped by the library lately? Located on the same campus as Town Hall, the library offers much more than books! In addition to movies, CDs, and audiobooks, you can borrow garden seeds, MiFi units for wireless internet access, and more. We also offer computers, printing and faxing services, as well as personalized tech support from our staff. From home, you can access online resources like Libby, Hoopla, and

- Costly Cleanups – Blocked drains require extra maintenance, raising costs for the Town.

What You Can Do

- Compost at home – Turn leaves and grass into free, nutrient-rich compost.
- Mulch – Mulch leaves and clippings back into your lawn.
- Keep drains clear – Sweep or rake debris away from curbs, ditches, and drains.

Together for Clean Water

Managing leaves and yard waste responsibly protects local streams, reduces flooding, and keeps our Town beautiful. Do your part this season—never dump leaves or yard waste into storm drains!

This year also marked the installation of two new historical markers. The first commemorates the Town Pump School, a one-room schoolhouse that opened in 1880. The second marks the site of Ogden's World War II aircraft watch tower on Coolidge Avenue, where civilian volunteers watched for enemy aircraft.

Residents are invited to a dedication ceremony for the aircraft watch tower marker on October 30 at 11:00 a.m., between 105 and 111 Coolidge Avenue. Please contact the Town Historian's Office with any questions.

Mark your calendars for our upcoming events! Town Trick or Treat returns to the canal-side business district on Sat., Oct. 24, followed by the Townwide Garage Sale on Sat., Nov. 7. Our Holiday Celebration & Tree Lighting returns Fri., Dec. 4, featuring lighted vehicles, food trucks, games, crafts, Santa, the annual tree lighting, and fireworks!

We're also excited to welcome John Ryan as our full-time Recreation Leader, along with several new staff members joining our Before & After School Program.

Thank you to all of our community partners who help make our programs and events possible! Be sure to check out our Fall Program Guide and follow us online for the latest programs, events, and updates.

Kanopy through our website, ogdenfarmerslibrary.org. The library continues to grow, with programs for all ages! Kids can enjoy Story Time, Pokémon Club, and LEGO Club. Teens in grades 6–12 can take part in Donuts and Writing, craft nights, and more, while adults can enjoy programs featuring local history, crafts, and other topics.

Visit our website to check out the events calendar and subscribe to our newsletter to stay up to date on upcoming programs and events. See you at the library!



OGDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

TRAVIS GRAY, CHIEF

The Ogden Police Department (OPD) has had a busy year, with sworn and civilian staff continuing their commitment to keeping our community safe.

Over the past year, OPD welcomed two new part-time police officers: Officer Shannon Brett and Officer Sean Ancker. Officer Brett began teaching DARE in district elementary schools in January and will continue throughout the 2026–2027 school year. Officer Ancker is assigned to road patrol, helping fill scheduling gaps and supplement patrol staffing as needed. Both have been valuable additions to the department.

OPD's goals for 2026 have focused on accreditation, training, and community engagement. In September, OPD once again achieved accreditation status following an on-site assessment by New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services assessors.

OPD has maintained accreditation since the program's inception in 1991 and is one of approximately 200 accredited law enforcement agencies in New York State. This achievement reflects the department's continued commitment to professional, consistent, and accountable police services.

Community engagement also remains a priority, with OPD members participating in and hosting events throughout the year that provide opportunities to connect with residents outside of traditional law enforcement interactions. The department also continues to invest in quality training to ensure officers are prepared to safely and effectively serve the community.

Citizens' Police Academy Coming in 2027

OPD is planning a Citizens' Police Academy for spring 2027, offering a firsthand look at local policing through presentations and demonstrations on patrol operations, investigations, traffic enforcement, mental health response, emergency preparedness, defensive tactics, and more.

Participants must be at least 18 years old, with preference given to Town of Ogden residents. For more information or to express interest, contact Officer Kevin Hall at khall@ogdenny.com.

OPD is grateful for the dedicated members of both the Ogden Police Department and Ogden Special Police. Their professionalism and commitment to serving the Town of Ogden make a difference in our community each day.

HELP US CAPTURE OGDEN IN 2026!



What would you want Ogden residents 50 years from now to know about our community today?

The Town of Ogden is collecting items for a community time capsule that will remain unopened for 50 years. Residents, families, businesses, schools, and organizations are invited to submit photographs, letters, drawings, memorabilia, or other items that capture life in Ogden in 2026.

Submissions will be accepted through November 20, 2026 and must include a completed submission form. Forms, guidelines, and additional information are available at OgdenNY.gov and Ogden Town Hall. Items can be dropped off at the Town Clerk's Office.

Selected items will be displayed at the Magical Holiday Celebration on Friday, December 4, before the time capsule is sealed.

Questions? Contact the Town Historian's Office at (585) 617-6124 or Historian@ogdenny.com. Help us leave a piece of Ogden's story for the residents of 2076!

SAVE THE DATE!

**OGDEN'S MAGICAL
HOLIDAY CELEBRATION**



Friday, Dec. 4th | 5:30–7:30 PM
Ogden Community Center

Food Trucks • Games & Activities • Storytime • Crafts •
Visit from Santa • Christmas Tree Lighting • Fireworks