



**VISION:** Eau Claire is a vibrant city with exceptional quality of life and services.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** It is our mission to assure the common good through services essential for a safe, sustainable, engaged and healthy community.

## Message from the City Manager



**Russell Van Gompel**  
City Manager

As many of you may already know, I have announced that I am retiring from my position of Eau Claire City Manager as of December 31, 2015 for personal reasons. While I have been serving in the public sector for over 35 years, there are times when actions are personal and private. This is one of those instances.

Some of you will know, while others may not, that I have a strong religious belief, and Mary Jo and I are active members of the Newman community here in Eau Claire. Recently our pastor, Father David Olson, shared his reflection on faith. He mentioned that as Catholics we must walk by faith and not by sight. I am not certain what the next chapter in my life will bring; however, Mary Jo and I will continue our 35 years of life together, and we will walk by faith.

As I conclude this chapter of my life, I would like to reflect on some of the many things that we were able to accomplish in my tenure with the City of Eau Claire. I am extremely proud of leading the discussions and starting the construction of the Confluence project. While the project is underway, I am hopeful that the next phase of the project, the community arts center, will continue to move forward and that a development agreement will be approved prior to the end of 2015.

As far as economic development, especially downtown redevelopment, it was fun to be a part of the continuing efforts to revitalize and improve property values especially in the Phoenix Park, downtown areas and start the construction of a new parking structure. These efforts included two amendments to TID #8 and the creation of TID #10 and #11.

On the labor and employee relations components, I was pleased that the organization adopted a new employee handbook and made the adjustment from a contractual-based labor force to one based on policies and procedures. We were also able to complete a compensation study.

From a financial standpoint, the City was able to review and approve new policies on fund balance, debt issuance, and budgeting. During my tenure, the City General Fund operations of revenue less expenditures exceeded budgeted amounts by \$1,482,427 in 2013, \$3,050,176 in 2014 and is projected to be \$2,882,821 in 2015.

I placed an emphasis on increased communications to residents by promoting and increasing the utilization of social media contacts. I created a City Manager Facebook page and Twitter account, created an electronic community newsletter, and implemented an online citizen engagement program called the "the Electronic Eau Claire Conversation". In addition, the distribution of information to City Council for meetings was converted to a digital format and was made available to the public on the City website.

**Popular Website Links:** [City Website](#) [City Calendar](#) [City Council Members](#) [Citizen Resource Bank Form](#)  
[Contact Us](#) [E-Notifications](#) [Social Media Links](#)

I would like to thank the City Council for bringing me to Eau Claire and allowing me to be a part of this community. I also wish to extend a special thanks to all the many fine employees who work every day to assure the common good through services essential for a safe, sustainable, engaged and healthy community. A City Manager is only successful if he/she has the support of employees within the organization. I have enjoyed the support of many outstanding individuals.

When I entered public service almost 35 years ago, I did so in order that I can be of service to a greater community. As I reflect on my years of public service, I challenge you to consider what public service truly means. When my career first started, public service was provided and many residents were thankful and appreciated the service received. People treated those providing this public service with honor and respect. As I conclude my years in public service, I am concerned with the perception that public service is no longer appreciated and in fact has become taken for granted and perhaps even taken on a sense of entitlement.

My hope is that residents expect exceptional service and when it is provided, be thankful for it. I remain thankful for all of the public servants I have had the pleasure of working with.

--Russell Van Gompel, City Manager

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## Fire & Rescue

### Firefighters Memorial Service

The public is invited to attend the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service on Sunday, October 4, at 1 p.m., at The Florian Gardens. This annual event is conducted for the purpose of remembering all fire and emergency personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community and to pay respect to the survivors of our fallen fire and emergency responders.



### Fire Prevention in the Schools

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 blaze that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres.

In anticipation of National Fire Prevention Week, which is October 4 – 10, fire prevention activities have launched in the area schools. Personnel from the engine and ambulance companies will present programs to approximately 3,500 students in grades K - 3. Fire Inspectors Mike Laska and Gary Puljas will provide instruction to approximately 925 four-year-old students in the pre-K program.



*Freddie the Fire Truck*

In addition, each year the department hosts a poster contest that incorporates the fire prevention theme for the year, the male and female winners of which will each receive a new bicycle and helmet. This year's theme is "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep!" Statistics show that working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half. Also, three out of five home deaths result from fires in properties without working smoke alarms, usually caused by missing, disconnected, or dead batteries.

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## Community Development

### Inspections

#### August 2015 Building Permit Activity

Residential building permits issued in August 2015 consisted of four single-family homes for a total valuation of \$845,000. Total building valuation for August 2015 is \$6,409,163.

#### Downtown Eau Claire, Inc.



#### People Pack the Streets for the International Fall Festival

The streets were filled for the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual International Fall Festival on September 19. Thousands of people weaved in and out of 100 vendors that lined South Barstow Street. There were Latin Zumba demonstrations, Salsa dancing demonstrations, performances by Irish dancers, and more.

In its inaugural debut, there was a cotton candy eating contest. There were about 50 participants with toothbrushes given to each. Trophies and prize packages from Hillside Dental were awarded to the winners in each of four age groups. The Blugold Marching Band performed to an excited audience. With more than 70 units, the Festival's largest parade to date was a grand highlight of the afternoon!

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Health

Eau Claire City-County  
Health Department



The second annual **Built Environment (BE) Fit Forum** will be hosted October 6 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Mayo Clinic Health System – Luther Campus. The BE Fit forum will address the intersection of health and the built environment and will engage a variety of stakeholders from throughout our community. Sessions & workshops include Active Transportation, Food Systems & Nutrition in the Built Environment, Parks as a Health Prescription, Health Impact Assessment Training & Walk Audit of Cannery District, Making the Healthy Choices the Easy Choice at Work & Home, Hillcrest Greens Neighborhood Tour. Please consider joining us! [Click here to register.](#)



The event is sponsored by Eau Claire Healthy Communities, our local coalition, made up of over 200 partners from the community, working together to promote the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities of Eau Claire County through collaborative and focused action. Eau Claire Healthy Communities has prioritized the built environment as a key strategy for improving population health in our community. Click [here](#) to learn more.

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## Library



### Clear Water Comedy Presents...Banned! Books in Drag

Thursday, October 1 • 9 p.m. - midnight • The Plus, 208 S. Barstow St., Eau Claire

The library has teamed up with Clear Water Comedy to celebrate your freedom to read during Banned Books Week. “Banned! Books in Drag” comedy and drag show will feature some of Eau Claire’s favorite drag artists giving performances inspired by commonly banned and challenged books.

Kicking off the event will be special guest comic Maggie Faris. Faris is noted for her ceaselessly cheerful personality and seemingly endless series of quirky, intelligent jokes dissecting our fears and social barriers. She recently won The Advocate magazine’s national search for the Next Funniest Queer Comedian. She was also voted “Best Comedian” by her Minnesota peers.

Banned Books Week is an annual campaign that celebrates the freedom to read. The library supports your right to choose what you read by providing open access to a diverse collection of materials which represent many different viewpoints. To learn more, visit [www.bannedbooksweek.org](http://www.bannedbooksweek.org).

We hope to see you at this event as we celebrate diversity, fight censorship and have a great time!

### **Bike to the Library Day**

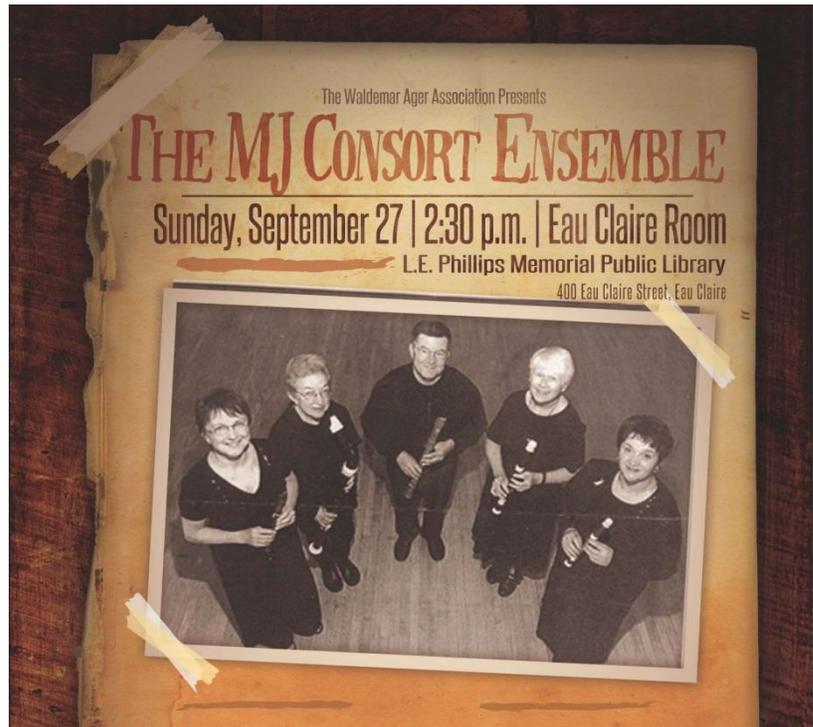
*Saturday, September 26 • 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. • Front Walk*

Ride your bike to the library - then stop by Information & Reference to find out how you can get your name entered into a drawing for cycling-related prizes!

### **The MJ Consort Ensemble**

*Sunday, September 27 • 2:30 p.m. • Eau Claire Room*

As tall as trees and as ancient and rugged as the Norwegian landscape from which they come, trolls are some of folklore's most fascinating creatures and are found in tales throughout Scandinavia. A whimsical combination of Norwegian hymns, Italian opera, and original music will tell the tale of "The Troll with No Heart in His Body," a traditional Norwegian folktale. Co-sponsored by the Waldemar Ager Association.



### **Black, White and Read All Over**

*Thursdays, October 1, 8, and 22 • 7 p.m. • Eau Claire Room*

Join local author and UWEC Professor BJ Hollars as he explores the power of the press in the civil rights era. Registration recommended. Register online at [www.ecpubliclibrary.info/events](http://www.ecpubliclibrary.info/events).



For information about library services, programs and events, visit the library online at [www.ecpubliclibrary.info](http://www.ecpubliclibrary.info), stop at Information & Reference on your next visit to the library, e-mail the library at [librarian@eauclaire.lib.wi.us](mailto:librarian@eauclaire.lib.wi.us), or call 715-839-5004.

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## Parks, Recreation & Forestry

### Eau Claire Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department National Award Finalist!



Congratulations to the [Eau Claire Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department](#) who, for the second year in a row, was recognized as one of the best parks and recreation agencies in the country on September 15 during the [National Recreation and Park Association's](#) annual conference. The [American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration](#), in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association, awarded the top four finalists in each population class, and announced the winners of the 2015 National Gold Medal Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.

In Class IV, for communities with populations between 30,001 and 75,000, the award went to the Park District of Oak Park, Illinois. Eau Claire was a national finalist in 2014 as well.

#### **Open Skating Begins October 7**

Open skating sessions for fall and winter begin Wednesday, October 7, at Hobbs Ice Center, 915 Menomonie Street. Open skating is available to all ages from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Sundays through March 30. (There will be no open skating November 25.) Cost is \$6 or two punches on a [City Pass](#). Skate rental is \$3 or a single punch on a City Pass for adults, free for youths. For more information, call 715-839-5040.

#### **Next "Healthy Trails" Hike October 10**

Hit the trails for a happier, healthier you with a new Parks and Recreation program in partnership with Mayo Clinic Health System. Join a health care provider for a walk on a local trail, while learning about important health topics. Healthy Trails is a free program and open to all ages and fitness levels. The program meets from 9 to 10 a.m. the second Saturday of each month. RSVPs are not necessary.

- October 10 – Phoenix Park (meet at Celebration Plaza by the flags)
- November 14 – Owen Park (meet by the playground)

# EAU CLAIRE



# GLOW RIDE

**JOIN US FOR A GLOW IN THE DARK RIDE ON THE CHIPPEWA RIVER TRAIL!**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2015**

RIDER CHECK-IN @ 7PM

RIDE STARTS @ 8PM

**CHECK-IN AT HOBBS**

915 MENOMONIE ST  
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54703

**REGISTER BY OCTOBER 2, 2015**

EAUCLAIREWI.GOV/REG  
(CODE FAAGR-101HB)

**ALL AGES WELCOME**

\$10 PER RIDER  
\$30 FOR A GROUP OF 4

**PRIZES AWARDED FOR MOST GLOW!**

MOST GLOWING GROUP OF 4

MOST GLOWING BIKE AND RIDER

**SAFETY**

HELMETS REQUIRED  
NO MOTORIZED BIKES



### **Eau Claire Glow Ride October 3**

Light up the night with fellow cycling enthusiasts Saturday, October 3, during the Eau Claire Parks and Recreation Department's inaugural Glow Ride.

Riders should check in at 7 p.m. at Hobbs Ice Center, 915 Menomonie Street, with the ride commencing at 8 p.m. Awards will be given to the rider and bicycle combination that glows the most, as well as to the brightest foursome of riders.

The event is open to riders of all ages. Helmets are required. Cost is \$10 per rider or \$30 for a group of four. Register online by Friday, October 2, at [www.eauclairewi.gov/reg](http://www.eauclairewi.gov/reg).

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## Theft from Auto

The Eau Claire Police Department would like to remind you to

1. Lock your vehicle(s).
2. Remove valuables when vehicles are parked for any length of time.



History has shown that early autumn months have a higher than average amount of “theft from auto” cases. In many of those instances, vehicles are found to have been left unlocked. Citizens can protect themselves from being victimized by using the above steps.

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## Public Works

### Decorative Pavers Installed in South Barstow Crosswalks

Decorative paver crosswalks recently were installed as part of the South Barstow Project. The project is moving along nicely, but final completion is dependent upon the progress of the Haymarket Landing Building currently under construction.

### Water Street Bridge Email Updates Available Through WisDOT

Community members interested in receiving progress reports on the Water Street Bridge replacement project can sign up for [email notifications](#) through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation’s website.



### **Engineering Division Explores Extending Bike Lane onto Summit Avenue**

City engineers are exploring ways to possibly extend the bike lanes from the Water Street Bridge onto Summit Avenue between the bridge and State Street. Engineering staff attended the Third Ward Neighborhood Association's annual meeting in early September to discuss alterations to the intersection at Summit and Park Avenues to allow for the expansion. Pending approval, the project could begin as early as summer 2016.

### **Madison Street Bridge Work Underway**

After initial delays while waiting for a replacement expansion joint, work is underway on the Madison Street Bridge. Traffic is restricted to one lane in each direction during construction. Work is expected to be completed in early November.

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## **Eau Claire City Council**



### **City Council Meeting Summary – September 21 & 22, 2015**

#### The City Council

- Conducted a Public Hearing on the updated City of Eau Claire Comprehensive Plan 2015.
- Heard Public Discussion on the adoption of an amendment to the Project Plan for Tax Increment Financing District #10 and the Project Plan for the creation of Tax Increment Financing District #11.
- Were presented with an Urban Deer Management Plan and heard public discussion on the proposed recommendations within the plan.
- In closed session, considered the terms and conditions of a potential development agreement with regard to the Confluence Project community arts facility.
- Proclaimed October 4 - 10 as Fire Prevention Week in Eau Claire.
- Granted new bartender licenses and temporary beverage licenses to Eau Claire Chamber Education Foundation for the Business Expo & Job Fair event and to St. Olaf Parish for the St. Olaf Men's Club Fish Fry Dinners.
- Granted a Fermented Malt Beverage, a Class C Wine license, and a Class A Cabaret license to Forage, LLC and a Change of Agent for the Combination Class A Fermented Malt Beverage and Intoxicating Liquor license of Wisconsin CVS Pharmacy.
- Granted a Refuse Hauler license to Earthbound Environmental Solutions.
- Authorized Group Health Cooperative of Eau Claire to conduct the Haunted Hustle 5K event.

- Authorized the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department to apply for an Urban Forestry Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
- Granted a permanent expansion of the Reserve Combination Class B Intoxicating Liquor & Fermented Malt Beverage and Class B Cabaret licensed premise of Coffee Grounds.
- Accepted and appropriated Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) formula program funds from the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance.
- Approved a Territory Amendment to the Project Plan for Tax Incremental District No. 10.
- Approved the creation of, and Project Plan for, Tax Incremental District No. 11.
- Authorizing the sale of 742 North Barstow Street.
- Authorized the acquisition of property at the intersection of Cameron Street and Interstate 94 and property along Cameron Street for future right-of-way.
- Approved a Memo of Understanding with Northern States Power designating City property at the Central Maintenance Facility as a canoe put-in as part of the portage around the Dells Hydro Dam.
- Accepted the Urban Deer Management Plan and approved actions to control the urban deer herd.
- Adopted the update of the Eau Claire Comprehensive Plan 2015.
- Had first reading of an ordinance to rezone property located on the west side of Mercantile Drive, north of Kohlhepp Road and to adopt the General Development Plan for Hope Gospel Mission House of Hope; first reading of an ordinance rezoning property on the east side of Cypress Street, south of Hamilton Avenue and to adopt the General Development Plan for a memory care facility; and first reading of ordinance amending provisions within the Zoning Code pertaining to Rooming Houses, requiring a conditional use permit for new rooming houses.
- Conducted a work session to discuss the process for hiring a new City Manager and provided direction to City staff regarding the hiring process.

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