



December 10, 2015

**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.

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

## City Manager

### E2C2: Electronic Eau Claire Conversation

“Tell us why you love Eau Claire.” That is the next question posted on the City’s online forum.

For most of us, complaining about where we live (whether it’s the weather, roads, potholes, or service) is easy or becomes as unconscious and automatic as breathing. For this question, please take time to reflect and appreciate the many fine assets that make Eau Claire a place where you want to live. By collecting your thoughts and ideas, we can build upon what makes Eau Claire a great place to live, work, and play.

Think about the things in Eau Claire that make you love it. Consider the places where you eat, shop, walk, bike, the events you love, the rituals you rely on, and the things you would miss if you moved away. Make your comments as simple or as elaborate as you want. Your posted comments will help us create a word cloud to include the things that are most important to you.

You can join the conversation at [www.EauClaireWI.gov/E2C2](http://www.EauClaireWI.gov/E2C2). Once you have registered, you will have the opportunity to share your suggestions and see what other people are thinking. City officials will read the statements and incorporate them into the decision-making process.

The success of Eau Claire Electronic Conversation depends upon community feedback and a healthy exchange of ideas. Often times, future comments depend upon visitors seeing and reading responses left by past participants. In order to ensure that participant feedback is made available to the community, the following response guidelines are required:

1. A title must be included with responses.
2. Enable “show my neighborhood with my response.”

Participants have the option to withhold their name from the response that is shown online. In addition, participants’ addresses are not available to viewers. Addresses are used by E2C2 for determining the general region of the city in which participants reside. Knowing the region of the respondent affords Council and staff an opportunity to better interpret the dynamics occurring in specific areas of the city. In addition, ensuring that a respondent is a resident of Eau Claire verifies that local voices are considered for local issues.

Council and staff understand that some participants may only want the City to receive their feedback. Responses that do not adhere to the guidelines above are still available for Council and staff to review. However, participants who wish to make their comments available to the entire community should subscribe and follow E2C2’s guidelines. Council and staff look forward to finding innovative ways of using E2C2 to enhance the exchange of ideas in Eau Claire!

## Elections

Candidates running for local office may be knocking on your door this fall. Positions on the City Council, School Board and County Board are up for election. In order to get their names on the spring ballot, candidates have to collect voters' signatures on nomination papers now.

Have you ever thought about helping determine the City's future by serving on City Council? The five at-large seats are up for election in 2016. There will also be a special election for the District 1 seat. Stop in at the City Clerk's office to obtain information and the forms needed to run for local office. The last day to turn in the completed paperwork is January 5, 2016.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Joe Smith
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Citizen
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jane Doe
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fred Rubble
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mary Hill

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## Community Development

### Century-Old Former Huebsch Building

There's a lot of activity at 101 N. Dewey Street, the site of renovations to the century-old former Huebsch building. Property owner Jack Kaiser says crews are currently installing a storm sewer and roughing in a parking lot. They're also finishing up interior demolition and starting to repair the masonry on the building. The building will have apartments in the top two stories, and a restaurant, bar, and possibly a banquet room, on the bottom two floors. It's scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2016.



### Let It Glow!

A couple thousand people filled Phoenix Park for **Let it Glow!**, the tree lighting ceremony hosted by Downtown Eau Claire, Inc. The second-annual event grew by 3,000 lights this year, and now includes a lighted tree in the West Grand Avenue District, for a total of 31,000 lights on 19 trees.

### Eau Claire Gets Glowing



There was a medallion hunt, free hot chocolate and popcorn, horse-drawn wagon rides, and 'Elsa' singing "Let it Glow!"

## November Building Permit Activity

Residential building permits issued in November 2015 consisted of five (5) single-family homes for a total valuation of \$921,000. Total building valuation through November 2015 is \$147,526,220.

## Finance

Early this week, some special “elves” from the City’s Finance Department dropped off their personal gifts to the Fire Department Toys for Tots collection box. Each year, many City employees and department teams give back to our local communities by sponsoring family holidays, donating toys, collecting mittens and scarves, volunteering at food banks and other worthwhile community efforts.



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## Fire & Rescue

### Toys for Tots – Eau Claire Fire Stations Drop-Off Sites

In conjunction with The Salvation Army, Eau Claire Fire and Rescue is once again happy to have its six fire stations serve as drop-off sites for the Toys for Tots holiday program. Donors can drop off new, unwrapped toys at the following fire station locations:



Station 2 – 216 S. Dewey Street  
Station 5 – 2500 Patton Street  
Station 6 – 3020 Golf Road  
Station 8 – 3510 Starr Avenue  
Station 9 – 3611 Campus Road  
Station 10 – 559 N. Hastings Way



Please drop off your donation by Sunday, December 13. Please contact Eau Claire Fire and Rescue Administration at (715) 839-5012 with any questions. **Merry Christmas!**

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## Health



A yearly flu shot is the best tool available to protect against the flu, but healthy people often question why – or if – they need a flu shot.

**I'm healthy – do I really need a flu vaccine?** Influenza can lead to serious illness, including pneumonia. Even healthy people can get sick enough to miss work or school for a week or longer, or even be hospitalized.

**Even if I get sick with the flu, won't I recover quickly?** Not necessarily. Anyone can become sick with the flu and experience serious complications. But even if you bounce back quickly, others around you might not be so lucky. Older people, young children, pregnant women and people with certain medical conditions are at especially high risk for complications.

**Can't I wait and get vaccinated when the flu hits my community?** It's best to get vaccinated *before* the flu begins to spread. It takes about two weeks for the flu vaccine to provide full protection.

**Do I need one every year?** Flu viruses are constantly changing so flu vaccines are updated from one season to the next. Also, a person's immune protection from the vaccine declines over time.

For information on dates and times to get your flu shot, Visit [www.ehealthdepartment.org](http://www.ehealthdepartment.org) or call the immunization line at 715-839-2876.

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## Library



### Library Director John Stoneberg Retiring

After 38 years of service to the library, Director John Stoneberg has announced his retirement effective January 1. In October 1977, the new library building had only been open for 11 months when John Stoneberg started his career as a freshly-minted, 24-year-old reference librarian. Public libraries had not changed much in a very long time. The main tools available to him were a card catalog, a collection of reference books, a black rotary phone, a healthy curiosity and a broad generalist background. The next four decades brought many changes, with technology at the root.



John Stoneberg, Library Director



The Eau Claire library was the third library in the state to computerize its circulation system, and Reference Services adopted the Internet early on for answering questions. Today, the library's website is a dynamic virtual library "branch" and staff members use social media as a regular communication tool. The library led the way nationally in checking out substantial numbers of iPads under John's leadership, as staff continues to find new ways to help customers in the digital age. Collection development has been a big part of John's work life as well. The book collection, first augmented by audiobooks, today boasts e-books and downloadable audiobooks. A vibrant 16mm film collection led to videos, and then to DVDs; CDs replaced LPs, and now the library also offers music downloads and streaming.



John Stoneberg saying goodbye to the card catalog.

In announcing his retirement, John wrote, "Through the efforts of all those associated with this library, the library has continually rolled with the punches and made the changes to stay relevant and healthy as a valued community investment. I am very proud to have been a part of this library's team. I am excited about starting the next phase of my life and spending more time with my wife and family. Thank you for all the years and a great adventure!"

The search for a new Library Director has been extended. Shelly Collins-Fuerbringer has been appointed as Interim Director. Shelly was hired in 1999 as the Children's Librarian and moved into the Youth Services Manager position in 2000.

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## Parks, Recreation & Forestry

### Holiday Sale on Fairfax Pool Passes

Get your 2016 Fairfax Pool Pass at the lowest price of the season! Purchase your pass from December 1 through January 31 for a 20-percent discount.

- Youth Resident...\$42      Youth Non-Resident...\$60
- Adult Resident...\$52      Adult Non-Resident...\$70
- Family of 3 Resident\*...\$98      Family of 3 Non-Resident\*...\$144

\*Add \$5 more for each additional family member

### Rock'n New Year's Family Skate December 31

It's not too early to start making New Year's Eve plans. Enjoy a fun evening with family and friends at the Rock'n New Year's Family Skate from 6 to 9 p.m., Thursday, December 31, at the Hobbs Ice Center, 915 Menomonie Street.

Admission is \$3 and includes skate rental. The event features a disc jockey and video screen, a balloon drop with prizes, skating games, activity booths, hot chocolate and more. For more information, call Parks and Recreation staff at 715-839-5032.

### Donations Needed for Recreation Scholarships

'Tis the season for giving. Each year, about 400 children are able to participate in Eau Claire Parks and Recreation programs, thanks to the City's youth scholarship program. The Parks and Recreation Department is accepting donations to assist with the upcoming year's scholarship requests. Based on financial need, a participant can have a portion of their registration fee subsidized through the scholarship program. To help, or for more information, call 715-839-5032.

## Clearwater Winter Parade 'Fire and Ice' December 19

It's so cool, it's hot. The fourth annual [Clearwater Winter Parade](#) combines these contrasting elements Saturday, December 19, with this year's theme "Visions of Fire and Ice." The parade begins at 5 p.m. along Grand Avenue near the County Courthouse and proceeds down First Avenue to Owen Park. Following the parade, family games, ice skating and a bon fire will be available from 6 to 8 p.m. at Hobbs Ice Center, 915 Menomonie Street.



The Clearwater Winter Parade is a fundraiser for the Eau Claire Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department's youth scholarship program. About 50 organizations have already committed to marching in the parade, with another 10 expected before the December 11 [entry deadline](#). To volunteer to help with the event, register [online](#).

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## Eau Claire County Methamphetamine Response Committee

In response to the issue of increasing prevalence of methamphetamine in Eau Claire, various stakeholders have collaborated to form the Eau Claire County Methamphetamine Response Committee. This Committee has been working together since March 2015 to combat methamphetamine addiction and methamphetamine-related crimes. This initiative is employing a three-tiered approach to reduce the use and consequences of methamphetamine in our community:

### Community Outreach/Awareness

*A collaborative effort involving multiple agencies and offices to educate the general public on all issues related to methamphetamine and our community.* These efforts include, but are not limited to presentations, the consistent use of social media, and the production of educational materials, including video, literature and other general information related to the use and effects of methamphetamine.

### **Court System Response**

*A collaborative effort of court system actors to immediately identify cases involving methamphetamine. This work includes utilization of bond protocol such as random testing, early intervention AODA services and the consistent tracking and use of data to inform decisions and case outcomes.*

### **Post Disposition Response**

*A collaborative effort, involving multiple agencies and offices, that has a specific focus on the case dispositions of individuals who are involved with methamphetamine. This work includes specific case plans, programs and services for individuals once court cases have concluded, with goals of appropriate rehabilitation and reduction of recidivism for those involved with methamphetamine.*

It is through these efforts that this multi-disciplinary group intends on reducing the pervasiveness of this highly-addictive drug in Eau Claire.

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## **Public Works**

### **Monthly Bus Passes Now Sold Through Vendors**

Eau Claire Transit is partnering with local businesses to sell vouchers for monthly bus passes and tickets for seniors and people with disabilities. Passengers will need to purchase their bus pass or ticket vouchers from vendors, and then exchange those vouchers for bus passes from Transit drivers. This change is designed to remove the burden of bus drivers handling large volumes of cash.

One-time fares and day passes still can be purchased on the bus through the fare boxes. Monthly pass and ticket vendors include the Gordy's grocery outlets on Birch Street, Clairemont Avenue and Hamilton Avenue; Festival Foods and the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library. Hobbs Ice Center and City Hall are expected to begin selling passes in 2016. Passes also can be purchased from Eau Claire Transit's main office at 910 Forest Street.

### **Eau Claire Transit Participating in Winter Parade**

Watch for Eau Claire Transit in the Clearwater Winter Parade on Saturday, December 19. This year's parade theme is "Visions of Fire and Ice." The Transit entry will feature an illuminated bus accompanied by drivers and other Transit employees.

### **Transit Welcomes New Hires**

Eau Claire Transit riders should notice three new friendly faces on their routes. Please welcome our newest part-time drivers: Dan Davidson, Dave Gaier and Dave Chapman.



### **Weather Delays Ramp Concrete Pour**

Rain and snow prevented construction crews from beginning work on the fourth level of the new North Barstow parking ramp. Forecasts for this coming week look favorable, and City engineers expect concrete to be poured for the fourth level of the ramp this week.

### **WisDOT Deems Lake Street Bridge Safe After Barge Run-in**

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation recently confirmed that the Lake Street Bridge was structurally sound after a barge grazed a pier last week. Only minor surface damage was caused to the concrete pier as the barge moved from the site of the Confluence Project to the Water Street Bridge project downstream. The Lake Street Bridge is a WisDOT-owned-and-operated bridge, similar to the Water Street Bridge that is being replaced.

### **Public Works Seeking Input for Short Street Reconstruction**

Public Works hosted an open house December 7 to gather public input to help guide the design of reconstruction planned for Short Street. The [project](#), which is slated to begin in 2017, consists of replacing the deteriorated concrete pavement, adding curb and gutter, widening the south side sidewalk that will connect the Chippewa River State Bike Trail to the Short Street Bridge over the Chippewa River, and adding on-street bike lanes. The public is encouraged to ask questions or offer its feedback by contacting Public Works at 715-839-4934.

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## **Eau Claire City Council**



### **City Council Meeting Summary – December 7 & 8, 2015**

#### The City Council

- Conducted a public hearing on a proposed ordinance rezoning property at 4814 - 4940 Bullis Farm Road from C-3P to R-3P and adopting the General Development Plan for multi-family development.
- Conducted a public hearing regarding a proposed ordinance amending Chapter 16.16 of the City Code of Ordinances entitled “On-Premise Signs”, relating to signs attached to buildings.
- Held a public discussion related to a proposed ordinance amending Chapter 10.38 entitled “Snow Event-Alternate Side Parking,” and amending Table VIII entitled “Parking Prohibited,” of the Code.
- Held a public discussion related to a proposed amendment to Chapter 10.20 entitled “Parking Meters and Lots,” Table IX entitled “Parking During Specified Hours,” and Table X entitled “Parking Meter Locations,” of the Code.
- Reviewed the current policies regarding boulevard trees and maintenance of sidewalk and curb.
- Received reports on the Wisconsin League of Municipalities Conference and on the National League of Cities Congressional Cities Conference.

- Granted new bartender licenses, granted a Temporary Class B Fermented Malt Beverage license to Chippewa Valley Roller Girls, granted a Temporary Class B Fermented Malt Beverage and Temporary Class B Wine license to Eau Claire Seymour Lions Club and granted a Combination Class B Intoxicating Liquor & Fermented Malt Beverage and Class A Cabaret license to Chase Collins, d/b/a Sea Horse Inn.
- Granted the renewal of Secondhand Article Dealer licenses for the 2016 licensing year.
- Appointed election officials for the 2016 - 2017 election cycle.
- Authorized Longfellow Elementary School to conduct the Jeanne Richie Memorial Puddle Jump at Phoenix Park.
- Approved bids and proposals for the Water Treatment Plant Filter Rehabilitation, the furnishing of Various Chemicals, the Purchase of a Type I Modular Ambulance, and the purchase of a Fire Department Emergency Command Vehicle.
- Approved the Eau Claire City/County Paratransit Program Service Agreement and adopted an agency fare for Paratransit trips.
- Authorized withdrawal from the Local Government Property Insurance Fund in order to become a part of the Municipal Property Insurance Company.
- Approved appointments to Boards, Committees and Commissions and appointments to the Neighborhood Revitalization Task Force.
- Approved changes to the Chippewa Valley Innovation Center Loan Fund Agreement.
- Approved agreements with the Towns of Brunswick, Lincoln, Ludington, Pleasant Valley, Rock Creek, Seymour, Spring Brook, Union, and Washington; the City of Altoona; and the Village of Fall Creek for the City of Eau Claire Fire Department to provide Emergency Medical Services to their residents, along with agreements with Mayo Clinic Health System, Sacred Heart Hospital, OakLeaf Surgical Hospital, and Marshfield Clinic regarding subsidies for the provision of Emergency Medical Services to various participating surrounding communities in the greater Eau Claire area.
- Authorized the City Manager to execute a collective bargaining agreement between the City of Eau Claire and Transit Local 1310.
- Postponed action on the rezoning of property at 4814 - 4940 Bullis Farm Road from C-3P to R-3P and the General Development Plan for multi-family development.
- Approved an ordinance amending Chapter 16.16 of the City Code Ordinances entitled "On-Premise Signs" relating to signs attached to buildings.
- Adopted an ordinance amending Chapter 10.38 entitled "Snow Event-Alternate Side Parking," and amending Table VIII entitled "Parking Prohibited," along with an ordinance amending Chapter 10.20 entitled "Parking Meters and Lots," Table IX entitled "Parking During Specified Hours," and Table X entitled "Parking Meter Locations," of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Eau Claire.
- Adopted an ordinance amending Section 2.72.010 of the City Code of Ordinances entitled "City of Eau Claire Pay Plan - Adopted," specifically that part thereof pertaining to Transit Local 1310 employees and Section 2.72.020 of the City Code of Ordinances entitled "City of Eau Claire Employee Benefits and Leaves Plan – Adopted", specifically those parts pertaining to health insurance contributions for Transit Local 1310 employees.

- Introduced an ordinance annexing to the City of Eau Claire land located north of Westover Road, west of State Street. (Olson Petition).
- Introduced an ordinance rezoning property at 1004 Menomonie Street from RM-P to C-2P and to adopt the General Development Plan for a restaurant/bar along with an ordinance rezoning property at 1709 Harding Avenue from C-3 to C-2P and to adopt the General Development Plan for a mixed-use building, and an ordinance rezoning property at the east end of High View Drive and west of Old Wells Road from R-1 and R-1A to R-1P and to adopt the General Development Plan for single-family homes with a reduced front yard setback.
- Went into closed session to consider employment and compensation of a public employee, namely, the City Manager, over whom the City Council exercises responsibility, which is permitted in closed session.

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