



February 12, 2016

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

Exciting Times for Downtown Eau Claire

Last Wednesday, after nearly four years of work, plans for a Community Arts Facility that will be located at the confluence of the Chippewa and Eau Claire rivers were unveiled. The facility will house one 1,200-seat theatre for large concerts and theatrical productions, a smaller 450-seat theatre, and a third flexible “black box” space. The building will also devote office space for Visit Eau Claire, ECRAC and other arts organizations, as well as studio, practice and classroom space for UWEC music, performance and theatre students. The project will be funded by public and private sources and is an excellent example of how public/private partnership can work to improve a community.



The health and vitality of a City can be measured by the strength of its downtown. This project is yet another step forward for this wonderful community we call Eau Claire.

###

Elections

Wisconsin Primary: While the national media has been focusing on Iowa and New Hampshire, Wisconsin voters need to remember that we have a different kind of primary coming up next week. On Tuesday, February 16, Wisconsin voters will reduce the number of candidates running for Wisconsin Supreme Court from three to two. The three candidates on the ballot are Rebecca G. Bradley, JoAnne F. Kloppenburg, and Joe Donald. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes on February 16 will move on to the April 5 Spring Election. April 5 is also the date of Wisconsin’s Presidential Preference vote.

Election officials want to remind voters that the Photo ID law is in effect and voting has become a three-Step process:

1. **State it.** State your name and address to the election officials at the poll books.
2. **Show it.** Show them your Photo ID.
3. **Sign it.** Sign the poll book.

There is no such thing as a “Voter ID.” There are eight different types of Photo IDs that are acceptable, including a Wisconsin Driver’s License, a DOT-issued ID card, or a passport. For a complete list of acceptable Photo IDs, go to “Bring It to the Ballot” (<http://bringit.wisconsin.gov>). The Bring It website also has information on how you can obtain a free state ID card for voting purposes.

###

Community Development

January 2016 Building Permit Activity

Residential building permits issued in January 2016 consisted of 2 two-family homes, for a total valuation of \$440,000, and two 4-plex buildings, with a total valuation of \$720,000. Total building valuation for January 2016 is \$5,125,834.

Charlson's Building is now a Brewery

Lazy Monk Brewing held its ribbon-cutting ceremony on January 22. The RDA had purchased the property in 2014 for a recreational trail. In May, the Eau Claire City Council voted to sell the former Charlson's Building and Design facility at 97 W. Madison Street to Lazy Monk Brewing.

Leos and Teresa Frank expanded their brewery and taproom at their new location and plan to add a restaurant in the future. This spring they will also build a patio that will have a view of the Chippewa River. Space for a trail is still included in the long-term plan for the area.



Downtown Eau Claire, Inc. wants to thank you for your support of Downtown. Please join us as we recognize all who contributed to our success in 2015!



Please join us for
**Downtown Eau Claire's
Annual Awards Banquet**

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Social: 5:30 p.m. Dinner: 6:15 p.m.
\$30.00 per person

The Halls at the Lismore
205 S. Barstow St.

Please Choose One:

Slow Roasted Prime Rib with Au Jus
Asiago & Proscuitto Stuffed Chicken Breast
Butternut Squash Ravioli with Bourbon Brown Butter Sauce
plus Cranberry Feta Salad & Turtle Cheesecake Chocolate Chunk Brownie

With special guest speaker John Karras

John founded urbanSCALE.com to empower people with the knowledge and tools needed to make their communities more vibrant. From Austin, TX, his articles include strategies for transforming a downtown and great features for public spaces.

Musical entertainment will also be provided!

Please **RSVP** with menu option by
Tuesday, February 16, 2016 to:
downtown@eauclairewi.gov or 715-839-4914.

Advance payment to Downtown Eau Claire, Inc. or pay at the door.
Invoices available upon request.

Sponsored by:



**SOUTH BARSTOW BUSINESS
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**



North Barstow/Medical
Business Improvement District



Downtown Eau Claire's 2016 Calendar of Events

May 14



Our City Spring Clean Up

TBD



Urban Living Tour

August 6



Summer Fest & Family Night in the Park

August 24



A Grand Evening on the Bridge

September 17



International Fall Festival

October 31



Trick-or-Treating

December 2



Let it Glow!

December 3



Christmastime in the City

Fire & Rescue

Ice Safety

For many Wisconsin residents, winter involves heading out to a lake or river to ice fish, snowmobile, ATV, or cross-country ski. Some advance planning and practicing basic ice precautions can ensure that a fun Wisconsin winter adventure does not end tragically. There is no such thing as 100-percent safe ice. One cannot judge the strength of ice by any one factor such as its appearance, age, thickness, temperature, or whether the ice is covered with snow. Ice strength is based on a combination of several factors and can vary from water body to water body. Ice strength also can vary in different areas of the same body of water.



Because ice conditions vary, it is important to know before you go. The Department of Natural Resources does not monitor local ice conditions including ice thickness. Local bait shops, fishing clubs, and resorts often have the most up-to-date information on how thick the ice is on local lakes and rivers, as well as areas that are especially dangerous.

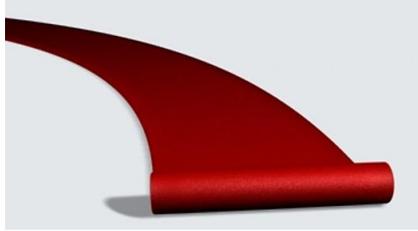
Here are some general guidelines:

- Dress warmly in layers.
- Look for clear ice, which is generally stronger than ice with snow on it or bubbles in it.
- Avoid inlets, outlets, or narrow sections of the water that may have current that can thin the ice.
- Do not travel in areas with which you are not familiar, and do not travel at night or during reduced visibility.
- Do not go alone. Head out with friends or family. Take a cell phone, and make sure someone knows where you are and when you are expected to return.
- Carry some basic safety gear: ice claws or picks, a cellphone in a waterproof bag or case, a life jacket, and length of rope.

What to do if you fall through the ice:

- Remain calm and act quickly.
- Do not remove your winter clothing. Heavy clothes can trap air, which can help provide warmth and flotation. This is especially true in a snowmobile suit.
- Go back toward the direction from which you came. This probably is where you will find the strongest ice—and what lies ahead is unknown.
- Place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface. This is where a pair of nails, sharpened screwdrivers, or ice picks will be handy in providing the extra traction you need to pull yourself up onto the ice.
- Kick your feet and dig in your ice picks to work your way back onto the solid ice. If your clothes have trapped a lot of water, you may have to lift yourself partially out of the water on your elbows to let the water drain before starting forward.
- Once back on the ice, don't try to stand up. Lie flat until you are completely out of the water, then roll away from the hole to keep your weight spread out. This may help prevent you from breaking through again.
- Get to a warm, dry, sheltered area and warm yourself immediately. In moderate to severe cases of cold-water hypothermia, you must seek medical attention. Cold blood trapped in your extremities can come rushing back to your heart after you begin to warm up. The shock of the chilled blood may cause ventricular fibrillation – possibly leading to a heart attack and death!

Newly Hired and Promoted



Eau Claire Fire and Rescue welcomed three new firefighter/paramedics to its ranks on January 18: Adam Finn, Andrew Elbert, and Michael Linstedt. They are participating in a formal training program led by Deputy Chief Allyn Bertrang. Upon completion of that training, they will participate in a badge pinning ceremony and then be assigned to regular duties on 24-hour shifts at Fire Station 2. In addition to the daily leadership provided by their company officers, during their 18-month probationary period, the three are each assigned a more seasoned co-worker as a mentor. Also participating in the badge pinning ceremony will be eight recently promoted department members. They are:

- ✓ Joe Kelly and Steve Vargo to Battalion Chief
- ✓ Jeff Dykes and Bob Haller to Captain
- ✓ Brian Phillips to Lieutenant
- ✓ Tony Biasi, Todd Frank, and Steve Friederichs to Engineer

Congratulations!

These promotions were set in motion by the retirements of Battalion Chiefs Bryon Bensen (22 years) and Scott Walby (30 years) and Engineer Al Klocek (29 years).

###

Health



Eau Claire County Restaurant Inspection Reports now Available Online

The Eau Claire City-County Health Department announced that restaurant inspection reports are now just a click away! Residents will now be able to view up-to-date restaurant inspection reports for all food facilities inspected by the Health Department. This website was planned as part of the transition to electronic record-keeping with a product called "Health Space" when they began that process 18 months ago. The state and several of our neighboring counties are already using this product successfully.

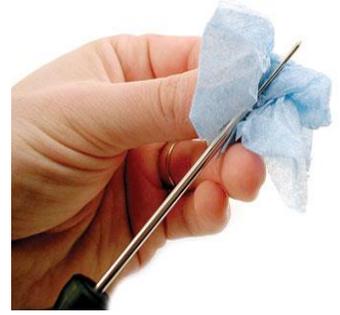


Environmental Health Specialists at the Health Department conduct 800 to 1,000 inspections on the approximately 500 food establishments in the county each year to make sure the food you're served is cooked, prepared, and stored safely so you can avoid foodborne illness (commonly called food poisoning). The CDC estimates that each year 17,000 residents in Eau Claire County will become sick from consuming unsafe food.

"The general public has the right to know that the establishment in which they choose to dine is complying with all food safety standards," says Shane Sanderson, Environmental Health Director of the Eau Claire City-County Health Department. "It is important to remember that any inspection is a 'snapshot' of the day and time of the inspection. An inspection conducted on any given day may not be representative of the overall food safety practices in an establishment."

Food inspection reports include information on violations which are rated as:

- **Priority Items**--things that can directly cause a foodborne illness.
Example: Meats are not cooked to the right temperature to kill germs
- **Priority Foundation Items**-- things that don't directly cause illness, but are essential to food safety.
Example: A sink isn't equipped with soap and paper towels for proper hand washing.
- **Core Items**-- things that relate to the general cleanliness of the restaurant.
Example: Microwave that is not cleaned on a frequent basis.



During inspections, the Health Department works with restaurant staff to correct all priority foundation violations at the time of the inspection. If priority violations can't be corrected during the routine inspection, a re-inspection is performed. To view all Eau Claire County restaurant inspection reports, please visit our [online inspection database](#) or call the Health Department at 715-839-4718 if you have questions.

###

Library



Gardening for Wildlife

Tuesday, March 29 • 1-2:30 p.m. and repeated 7-8:30 p.m. • Eau Claire Room

Learn how to create benefits for wildlife in your backyard using native plant species. Presented by Bill Hogseth, DNR Wildlife Biologist. Co-sponsored by the Eau Claire Garden Club. No registration required.

What's Your Money Personality?

Thursday, February 18 • 6-7 p.m. • Eau Claire Room

This free workshop will help you understand why you treat money as you do. You'll discover the five personality types and what this means for establishing money harmony. No registration.

Wisconsin ArtsWest 37 | February 28 – April 6

Thursday, March 3 • 7-8:30 p.m. (Reception & Awards)

The library's annual juried art exhibit is back! Best of Show and 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes will be announced at the reception. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. Juror for this year's show is Graeme Reid, Director of the Museum of Wisconsin Art in West Bend.

Writers Read: *Jan Carrol and Jeannie Roberts*

Tuesday, March 8 • 7 p.m. • Eau Claire Room

Two featured poets will read selections from their recent books.

DIY Dabble: Refrigerator Magnets

Tuesday, March 15 • 6-7 p.m. • Eau Claire Room

Crafts aren't just for kids! Participants will create a design with string art. For ages 18 and older. Register online at www.ecpubliclibrary.info/events.

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

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Parks, Recreation & Forestry

Cool Skating, Hot Cocoa on Sundays

Spend your Sundays enjoying outdoor ice skating, and treat yourself to free hot cocoa. The Eau Claire Parks and Recreation Department provides free hot cocoa Sundays at all six of its [outdoor rinks](#). Board games and coloring books will also be available in the warming houses for kids wanting a break from skating.

New Session of Water Fitness Begins February 15

Looking for a full body workout that doesn't pound your joints? Try water fitness! The Eau Claire Parks and Recreation Department will be offering its next session of Water Fitness classes, starting the week of February 15.

- Deep Water, 6:30-7:25 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays through April 7, starting February 15 at North High School. No classes February 29, March 21-24 or April 6.
- H2O Flow (shallow water), 6:30-7:25 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays through April 7, starting February 15 at North High School. No classes February 29, March 21-24 or April 6.
- Deep Water, 7-7:55 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays through April 7, starting February 16 at DeLong Middle School. No classes February 23-25 or March 21-24.

Cost is \$48 for Eau Claire residents, \$58 for non-residents. Drop-in participants are also welcome, depending on space. Cost is \$6 per session or two punches on a City Pass. To register, visit www.eauclairewi.gov/reg.

Parents: Plan Your Next Night Out on February 19

Let your children enjoy a few hours of games, snacks and activities, while parents enjoy a few adventures on their own with "Parent's Night Out." The next session meets from 5:15-8:15 p.m. Friday, February 19, at Robbins Elementary.

Upcoming sessions scheduled:

- March 11 (Robbins Elementary)
- April 15 (DeLong Middle School for swimming)
- May 20 (Putnam Heights Elementary)

Pre-registration is recommended, although walk-ins are welcome if space allows. Cost is \$10 (\$12 for walk-ins) or four punches of a City Pass. Snack included with registration. Register online at www.eauclairewi.gov/reg.

School Break Outdoor Skating, Sledding February 25-29

Pinehurst Park is expanding its outdoor skating and sledding hours during the Eau Claire School District break February 25-26 and February 29. The warming house will be open and free loaner helmets available from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. through the duration of the break.

“School’s Out” Open Skating, Rink Rat Hockey February 25-26

School’s out and skating is in during Eau Claire Parks and Recreation’s [“School’s Out Open Skating and Rink Rat Hockey”](#) Thursday and Friday, February 25-26, at Hobbs Ice Center, 915 Menomonie Street.

- Open skating:
 - Session 1: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
 - Session 2: 1:15-3:15 p.m.
- Rink Rat Hockey: (must have full equipment)
 - 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Mites/Squirts)
 - 12:45-1:45 p.m. (Peewee/Bantam)

Cost is \$3 a session or a single punch on a City Pass. Skate rental included with admission. For more information, contact Hobbs Ice Center at 715-839-5040.

Registration Underway for Water Safety Instructor, Lifeguard Certification

Dive into a rewarding summer job or lifelong career as a certified water safety instructor or lifeguard. The Eau Claire Parks and Recreation Department is offering upcoming courses in both. Upon successful completion, participants will possess Red Cross certification.

- Water Safety Instructor: 6:30-9 p.m. Wednesdays, February 24-April 7, DeLong Middle School. Ages: 12 or older. Cost is \$120 for residents; \$130 for non-residents.
- Lifeguarding: 6:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, March 4, and 8:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. March 5-6, South Middle School. Ages: 15 or older. Cost is \$125 for residents; \$135 for non-residents.

Review pre-requisites and required training materials near the bottom of the Aquatics Class Description [homepage](#). To register, visit www.eauclairewi.gov/reg.

###



The Eau Claire Police Department would like to remind citizens that it is illegal to leave your keys in an unattended vehicle while it is running, per City of Eau Claire Ordinance 10.40.020. Doing so provides an easy opportunity for someone to steal your vehicle. The ordinance covers all public streets and parking lots held open to the public.

With winter upon us, it is also a good time to review snowmobile regulations in the City of Eau Claire. Chapter 350 of the Wisconsin Statutes identifies all the provisions and restrictions on operating snowmobiles on or in the vicinity of roadways. The major restriction that prevents snowmobiles from operating on city streets in Eau Claire is that snowmobiles are prohibited from operating on plowed roads unless the road is designated by visible signs as a snowmobile route. We do not have any designated snowmobile routes in the city limits. In addition to the Wisconsin Statutes, the City of Eau Claire Ordinance 10.40.160 includes the following additional provisions:

- No person shall operate a snowmobile on private property of another without written permission of the property owner.
- It is prohibited to operate snowmobiles in public parks, airport lands, playgrounds, athletic fields, parking lots, city well fields, and other public lands within the city.
- It is prohibited to operate snowmobiles within the city between the hours of 9:30 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.

There are, of course, numerous snowmobile trails in the area. You can find information on snowmobile trails in [Eau Claire County](#) and [Chippewa County](#) by clicking on the links provided.

###

Public Works

Signage Hoped to Encourage Parking Ramp Use

Crews have installed public parking signs in the Gibson Street parking ramp in hopes to encourage greater public use. The downtown ramp, although attached to the former Ramada Inn, is actually owned and operated by the City and open for public parking.

“We think there’s a general misperception in the community that the ramp is private or only for functions at the adjoining facility,” said Dave Solberg, City Engineer. “We hope people will see the new signs and know they’re welcome to park in the ramp.”

The Gibson Street parking ramp can accommodate a little more than 400 vehicles.



Haymarket Future Plans Revisited

The last time City officials met with the public to discuss community aspirations for the Haymarket Plaza was 2013, before significant headway had been made in the Confluence Project. Because of this, officials and contractors met with the public in early February to see if the previous [“Placemaking Summary”](#) needed to be modified.

“We were really encouraged by the turnout, especially in light of the day’s snowstorm,” said City Engineer Dave Solberg, noting between 40 to 50 community members in attendance. Project architect Malcolm Holzman led the discussion with a scale model of the plaza and its adjacent structures.

In light of the strong public interest, City officials plan to hold a follow-up meeting later this winter or early spring. In the meantime, displays from the event can be found on the Public Works [website](#). A link also is available for those not in attendance to provide feedback.

Progress Continues on South Barstow Ramp Throughout Winter

Construction continues on the South Barstow parking ramp, despite the early February snowstorm. Crews have poured concrete for the flooring of the fourth floor of the ramp. The project continues on schedule and within budget. The 760-vehicle ramp is scheduled for completion in early September.

###

Eau Claire City Council



Clear Vision Eau Claire Finalist for Public Engagement in Government Award

Clear Vision Eau Claire was named a finalist for the “Public Engagement in Government” award by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation for its “Engaging Citizens and Problem-Solving Initiative.” The City Council was presented with the certificate at last Tuesday’s City Council meeting.

Congratulations to Clear Vision Eau Claire, and thank you for your committed efforts to “engage our community for the common good.”



City Council Meeting Summaries - January 25 & 26 - February 8 & 9

At the meeting of January 26, the City Council

- Heard the Council President’s Annual Message to the City.
- Granted Temporary Class B Fermented Malt Beverage licenses to St. Olaf Parish, to Eau Claire Events (Eau Claire Marathon), and to The Paint Shack.
- Authorized two special events, the Eau Claire Marathon and Clearwater Winter Parade and Celebration.
- Approved bids and proposals for Professional Design Services for Fire Station No. 10, for Construction Management Services for Fire Station No. 10, for the Purchase of Equipment for Plow Trucks, for the Purchase of One Stainless Steel Tank for Sludge Truck, for Parts for Hydrant Height Adjustments, and for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus.

- Authorized fourth-quarter appropriation adjustments to the 2015 Operating Budget for grants, donations, and budget adjustments; and 2015-2016 carryovers in the Operating Budget and Capital Budget.
- Amended the Adopted General Fund Budget of the City of Eau Claire for Fiscal Year 2014 and appropriated funds for contingency purposes and amended the Adopted General Fund Budget of the City of Eau Claire for Fiscal Year 2015 and appropriated funds for various purposes.
- Approved a Public Market Feasibility Study.
- Approved an agreement between the City of Eau Claire and the Eau Claire Area School District and Cooperative Educational Services Agency, to provide instructional summer school programs in 2016.
- Authorized appointments to Boards, Commissions, and Committees.
- Approved the project and levying of special assessments for improvements on 22 alleys.

At the meeting of February 9, the City Council

- Received for display at City Hall the Harvard Kennedy School of Government Innovations in American Government Award presented in December to Clear Vision Eau Claire for their “Engaging Citizens and Problem Solving” initiatives over recent years.
- Granted bartender licenses, granted Temporary Class B Fermented Malt Beverage licenses to Cedar Creek Community Church and to Sacred Heart of Jesus - St. Patrick Parish, and granted Class B Fermented Malt Beverage licenses to Hangar 54 Grill, to Geno’s Slice N Ice Pizza Shack, and granted a Combination Class A Intoxicating Liquor and Fermented Malt Beverage to Gordy’s Market.
- Authorized Special Olympics Wisconsin to conduct the Polar Plunge on Half Moon Lake.
- Authorized a request to the Wisconsin Department of Administration to remit the school tax, lottery and gaming and first dollar credits directly to the City and exempting the City from the Chippewa County library tax.
- Approved the bid and proposal for the purchase of 12 Police Department Vehicles.
- Approved an agreement with Chippewa Valley Pickleball, for the construction of additional Pickleball courts at McDonough Park.
- Authorized the City to enter into a Use Agreement with Distinguished Multiplying Buildings LLC for the parking lot that currently occupies the right-of-way of Menomonie Street immediately west of Tenth Avenue.
- Authorized a land exchange between the City and the property owner of 4701 Oakwood Hills Parkway to correct off-setting encroachments.

- Declared 617 South Barstow Street, known as the Seaver Street parking lot, as excess land and not required for a public use.

- Approved the project and levying of special assessments for street improvements on
 - Commonwealth Avenue
 - Craig Road Craig Road
 - Damon Street
 - London Road
 - Oakwood Mall Drive
 - Stein Boulevard and
 - Westover Road

- Approved the project and levying of special assessments for street and utility improvements on
 - Chapin Street
 - Hogeboom Avenue
 - Shale Ledge Road
 - Sixth Street and
 - Vine Street

- Introduced an Ordinance rezoning property at 1005 Oxford Avenue (First Lutheran Church).

###