

**In This Update:**

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- **Updates from:** Community Development, Engineering, Community Services, Library, Health Department.

**From the City Manager:** Here are a few updates from this week...

**Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) updates:** I was thankful to be able to attend the July HOC meeting this past Wednesday, as it afforded an opportunity to answer questions about the City Council’s ARPA funding plan that was approved just the night before. The HOC was encouraged by the Council’s commitment to undertake a full Zoning Code rewrite, hire a Housing Project Manager, and conduct a Housing Needs Assessment. All of these goals fit within the HOC’s Work Plan strategies, and they look forward to assisting the City Council in providing policy and program guidance in these areas. They also settled on a date for their first Housing Conference: **Thursday, October 27th, 2022**. The HOC conference work group has met with Momentum West and are looking to partner with them on a fall/winter housing workshop series of events, with the HOC hosting the Eau Claire workshop on October 27th. Stay tuned for more details! And thank you to staff from Planning, Housing, and Health for their continued work to shepherd the HOC along in their important work!

**High-bridge trail safety solution:** A while back, Council Member Emily Berge reached out to City staff to express a concern about how the trail from the High Bridge exits onto Forest Street after a steep slope. Prior to Council Member Berge’s request, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee members had expressed similar concerns. People on wheels – especially perhaps children or inexperienced bicyclists – could overshoot the sidewalk and end up on Forest Street, which has quite a bit of heavy truck traffic due to



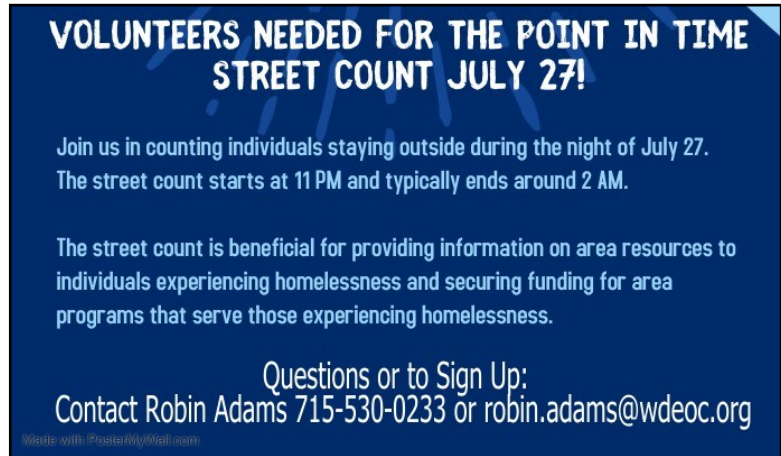
nearby industries and the City's Central Maintenance Facility. City staff responded right away by putting up temporary fencing. Most recently, Interim Community Services Director Lane Berg shared this update: "I wanted to show you the permanent solution to the safety concerns at the T intersection of the bike trail and Forest Street. Thank you so much for bringing this to our attention!" Thank you, also, for Community Services staff for problem solving!

**Point-in-time count:** As mentioned in the Council meeting, there will be a "Point-in-Time Street Count" on July 27th, and the Dairyland Housing Coalition seeks volunteers to help "count individuals staying outside during the night of July 27". Please sign up here if interested and able: <https://forms.office.com/r/qUjHUfaLmC>

**Transit take-aways:** We had two opportunities to learn more about transit this past week. First, the Performance Management Initiative (at least temporarily dubbed "EauStat") continued this past week, with a meeting about transit. It was a lively and mind-stretching conversation, given the complexity of trying to provide public transportation to a mostly car-dependent, large geographic area. Then second, Tom Wagener was among the presenters at this past week's Eggs and Issues meeting that focused on transportation and mobility.

He did a great job! Attendees had a chance to learn about the complex set of issues that relate to mobility, when taking into account both within-community travel and inter-city travel. The evolving status of technology, funding, and consumer behavior makes planning exciting, but also very complex and challenging.

**Budget news:** We are working hard internally on budget preparation. Please note, as outlined in the calendar below, I am working with Finance Department staff and Directors to figure out both the parameters (e.g. how much we may have to spend in 2023) and the timeline (e.g. whether or not we can move the final 2023 budget adoption to after we know the outcome of the referendum). We met this past week with staff from the DOR to talk about some finance and referendum issues, and we can



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE POINT IN TIME STREET COUNT JULY 27!**

Join us in counting individuals staying outside during the night of July 27. The street count starts at 11 PM and typically ends around 2 AM.

The street count is beneficial for providing information on area resources to individuals experiencing homelessness and securing funding for area programs that serve those experiencing homelessness.

Questions or to Sign Up:  
Contact Robin Adams 715-530-0233 or [robin.adams@wdeoc.org](mailto:robin.adams@wdeoc.org)

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share information about that meeting at the upcoming Council budget sessions. We have also arranged to talk to the City Manager from Fond du Lac, which had a successful referendum, and the Executive Director of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities to compare notes on referendums and Wisconsin financial constraints. (Thank you, Council Member Berge for helping to arrange this!) I can't say enough about how grateful I am for our Finance staff who are tackling these complex challenges with a great attitude and lots of brainpower, including Jennifer Pempek, Jason Rohloff, Christine Wagner, Scott Cosmo, and our new Finance Director, Kitzie Winters, who has hit the ground sprinting.

**Employee Spotlight:** Here's our next spotlight! (Highlight someone using this form, if you would like: [Spotlight Form](#)).

This week's spotlight is for **Officer Thomas Ramboldt**! One of Officer Ramboldt's co-workers said this about him: *"Officer Ramboldt's ability to communicate and de-escalate situations has been most remarkable. He achieved his goal of joining the Tactical Response Team. He accepts constructive criticism well, and he has shown strong initiative in follow-up with investigations. He is also a very compassionate person who has gone out of his way to help residents in tough situations. A couple of weeks ago he assisted a stranded motorist to a gas station to buy more gas, only to find out she did not have money to purchase gas. He paid for her gas and gave her a ride back to her vehicle."*



Here's a bit more about Officer Thomas Ramboldt:

- **Position:** "Police Officer, little over a year"
- **Favorite Activity:** "I love hunting, exercising and taking my dog on runs."
- **Best part about working for the City:** "I like working for the City of Eau Claire because there is a variety of opportunities for career growth in my department, and the people are great."

### **Council Calendar**

- July 19:
  - City Council CIP Budget work session #2
  - 2023 Operating Budget Parameters work session
- Monday, July 25:
  - Q&A on Referendum with Baker Tilly Consultant Don Lifo to finalize specific language for ballot
  - Public discussion of Referendum
- Tuesday, July 26:
  - Resolution finalizing referendum ballot language
  - Council CIP Budget work session #3
- Monday, August 8th: Public discussion for 2023-2027 Proposed CIP

- Tuesday, August 9th: City Council adopts 2023-2027 Proposed CIP
- Saturday, October 1st: City Council receives 2023 Proposed Operating Budget
- Tuesday, October 4th: Operating Budget work session #1
- Monday, October 10th: Public Hearing on the Proposed Operating Budget
- Tuesday, October 11th: Operating Budget work session #2
- Tuesday, October 18th: Operating Budget work session #3
- Tuesday, October 25th: Operating Budget work session – amendment discussion
- Thursday, October 27th: Housing Opportunities Commission Housing Conference
- Tuesday, November 8th: General Election, with referendum ballot question
- TBD in November
  - Budget amendments due
  - Public Hearing on 2023 Proposed Operating Budget
  - City Council action on 2023 Proposed Operating Budget
- Tuesday, November 22rd: City Council action on levy

### **Community Development Updates**

**Prill Road/Golf Road and Gateway Drive Redevelopment:** The Plan Commission has several projects for review at their meeting this Monday the 18th, but there’s one of note, as it is wholly within the purview of the Commission as a Final Site Plan, and it will not come before the City Council. It’s the completion of the redevelopment of the northeast corner of this key commercial intersection. Council members may recall that last year, CCF Bank rebuilt their branch at this location a bit further east and with a much smaller footprint. With the demolition of the old bank (formerly the location of Visit Eau Claire, many of you may recall), this allowed room for an additional two retail sites to become available at the “hard corner” of the intersection. Hardly six months after CCF reopened, the remainder of the property is now redesigned for two new businesses and seeking approvals from the Commission on Monday night. Those two businesses? Valvoline Quick Lube and Chili’s restaurant! Chili’s plans to construct a 170-seat restaurant and share an open space connection with CCF Bank to the east. Valvoline would be at the far northwest corner of the site. All three businesses would share access further east along Prill Road and at the current northernmost drive along Gateway Drive. We welcome both new businesses to Eau Claire!

### **Engineering Updates**

**Cannery Park:** Work in the new Cannery Park area will begin this summer. Fill material will begin to get hauled into the site this summer from a detention pond project on Jeffers Road. This fill will be used next summer when the bulk of the actual Cannery Park construction will occur.

**License Plate Recognition Technology:** Engineering Department Staff has begun the outreach process with businesses and stakeholders for the upcoming deployment of License Plate Recognition (LPR)

technology downtown. The LPR will allow for the removal of the gate arms at our parking facility and will greatly increase efficiency of parking patrons' entrance and exit to the garage.

**Jeffers Road Reconstruction:** The Jeffers Road website is being updated and the tentative start date for the project is August 1st. (See: [Jeffers Road, STH 312 to County Line Road | City of Eau Claire, Wisconsin \(eauclairewi.gov\)](#)) The project will have two phases. The first will be this year, and the second will be completed in 2023. Message boards will be placed on Jeffers Road a week in advance of construction starting to alert the property owners of the upcoming commencement of construction.

**Pavement Markings:** Staff is meeting with the pavement marking contractor that will be doing the citywide pavement marking this year, starting next week. You'll see pavement markings being placed on routes recently seal-coated this summer, such as Rudolph Road, between Harding Ave and Clairemont Avenue, and several other similar projects.

**Community Services Updates**

**Parks:** In recent weeks, staff prepared parks for major tournament to represent the City in the best way possible, including for the State Baseball Tournament at Jeffers Park and the National Kubb Championship at the Soccer Park.

City Parks and Trails have recently added two new action sports amenities. The first item is the pump track in Pinehurst Park. The track was built by OutdoorMore last year, and it was recently topped with asphalt to improve the track conditions. The second addition to the system is a skate feature along the Chippewa River Trail on 1st Avenue, just across from the County Courthouse and Government building. This feature was designed by the skateboarding community, and it's intended to draw skateboarders away from the downtown area and into areas designed for them. If this feature is successful, the skateboarding community



is looking to add other skating features along our trails system with the proper approval from the Waterways and Parks Commission.

**Streets:** The street sealing projects for 2022 have been completed. A total of 9.11 miles were sealed this year, as follows: the 4.35 miles of micro-sealing completed Friday June 23rd and the 4.76 miles of chip-sealing completed Wednesday, July 6th. Sweeping up of loose chips will continue over the next couple weeks. Next year's sealing project list is nearing completion and inspections/repairs of these streets will begin in August. Staff plan to seal approximately 10 miles of City streets in 2023.

Also, the Hastings Way concrete-joint-filling project is scheduled to begin the week of July 11th. Larger concrete joints will be cleaned and filled with a hot-pour mastic. Hastings Way will remain open to traffic during this project.

**Utilities:** Staff at the Wastewater Treatment Plant are working on lift station preventative maintenance this week. This work helps to ensure consistent, reliable operation at each station.

### Library Updates

**Touch a Truck:** One Library employee had the idea of putting on a Touch a Truck event, thinking the Library has a big parking lot this year, so why not host big trucks! City Departments and



residents jumped in to help make this great idea happen.

Transit sent a 40-foot diesel electric bus, Forestry sent the #132 Forestry clam truck, and Parks sent a Kabota tractor. There were also a Police squad car, a firetruck, and an ambulance. Other parties brought personal big trucks (most with BIG horns!) Staff heard horns blow for three hours straight. The

kids seemed to have a blast, and the Library was packed. There were some small, toy battery-powered trucks for the kids to race each other around a circle track. Transit gave out approximately 200 lanyards and badge holders. Everyone looked like they had a great time! Thanks to everyone for finding an awesome use for the features of your temporary, soon-to-be former Library location.

**Re-Opening Schedule:** There’s a lot of excitement – and hard work underway – at the Library as they prepare for the big move! The schedule is as follows:

- July 29: Final day staff will add holds to hold shelves for pickup;
- August 6: Final day at temporary location (in-person library services paused at 6PM), Final day to check out materials until reopening;
- August 9 through 10: Digital services paused (for only these two days);
- Early September: Soft reopening, date to be announced; and
- Beginning September 26: Grand reopening events (more info coming soon).



**Health Update**

**Covid:** Eau Claire County has moved from Low to Medium for the Community Level. See the diagram to the right for what this means for community and individual response.

Hope you are having wonderful weekends!

Stephanie A. Hirsch  
City Manager

What Prevention Steps Should You Take Based on Your COVID-19 Community Level?

Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay <a href="#">up to date</a> with COVID-19 vaccines</li> <li>• <a href="#">Get tested</a> if you have symptoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you are <a href="#">at high risk for severe illness</a>, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions</li> <li>• Stay <a href="#">up to date</a> with COVID-19 vaccines</li> <li>• <a href="#">Get tested</a> if you have symptoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear a <a href="#">mask</a> indoors in public</li> <li>• Stay <a href="#">up to date</a> with COVID-19 vaccines</li> <li>• <a href="#">Get tested</a> if you have symptoms</li> <li>• Additional precautions may be needed for people <a href="#">at high risk for severe illness</a></li> </ul>