

**In This Update:**

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

**National Night Out:** The National Night Out event took place on Tuesday, August 2nd. Over 2,500 people from the community attended and engaged with City staff and community organizations and businesses. Thank you to Beau Sandleback and Riley McLennon for organizing the event. Also, special recognition to other City Departments/Divisions that participated including: Parks, Forestry, Utilities, Streets, Library, Fire, and Police.

Here is an extra amazing example of one of the connections that occurred at National Night Out. It's a reminder of how connected we all are in our community. The Eau Claire Professional Firefighters shared this update on their Facebook Page, with the picture above: "Almost a year ago, to the day, this young boy nearly drowned in the Chippewa River. Last night, his mother brought him to Eau Claire's National Night Out event. By pure coincidence, this was the crew that responded to that incident. It was an emotional reunion for everyone involved to say the least! Not only to see him doing well, but thriving! Crew members from left to right: Dustin Quilling, Nils Bergquist, Jon Beck, Bob Pratt. Not shown Andrew Elbert."





Here are a few more pictures from the evening. A bonus was getting to see staff out with their own families!

**Point-in-Time Count:** Management Analyst Intern Hannah Raddenbach and I joined teams for the Dairyland Housing Coalition’s Point-in-Time Count of people who are sleeping without shelter. My team, pictured here, was a group of energetic staff from Sojourners: Shakayla, Cari, Milo, and Hope. I very much appreciated spending time with them – from 11PM to 2:30AM – to learn more about the work they do and their tremendous compassion, courage, and problem-solving abilities. The experience also helped me learn more about the extraordinary stresses faced by people who do not have a permanent home and helped me gain a glimpse of the challenges faced by those who work while the rest of the city sleeps, such as our first responders in Police, Fire, and Health Care.

**Hmong Mutual Assistance:** Reminder that you are all invited to attend the Hmong Mutual Assistance Association Community Picnic today (8/6), from noon to 5PM, and Riverview Park. It’s open to the public and all are welcome! Find more information and RSVP here: [Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association Community Picnic | ecahmaa](#)



**Drive-Through Voting:** The August Partisan Primary will be held on August 9th. In-person absentee voting (Full Drive-Through Process) was held between July 26th and August 5th. The Elections Department handled 1,055 in-person absentee voters for the nine days. The Department reports that this is more the per-day average in April. Voters had many questions about processes and procedures to make sure their votes count, given the changing laws related to voting.

**Budget Work:** Here are a few Budget updates:

- We continue to hold internal meetings to review every expense line for every department. A huge thanks is due to Jason Rohloff who has managed these meetings and to our new Finance Director, Kitzie Winters. We will use every tool we can for the 2023 budget. And then, many of the bigger ideas being discussed will take longer to fully vet and consider, and we look forward to sharing them with you over the coming year for consideration in future budget cycles.
- Related to the referendum, we had a chance to talk to the City of Chippewa about their referendum. We hope to bring together communities who are all working on referendums this year to compare notes, especially related to DOR policies that impact our 2023 budget preparation.
- DOR released preliminary Net New Construction figures for 2021, which impact our preparation for the 2023 budget, and we are cautiously optimistic about Eau Claire’s results. Any increases in new construction for 2021 will be due to the work of Dave Solberg, Aaron White, Scott Allen, all of Community Development, our Legal Department, Engineering, Community Services, Fire, Police, and Finance, along with partners like the Chamber, EDC, and Gateway, all of whom work to attract and arrange for new development. See [2022 Preliminary NNC802WI](#) for more



information, and we look forward to sharing more details of this as we study the results more carefully.

**Happy 150th Birthday:** We really enjoyed seeing this recent Facebook Post from ValleyBrook Church: “City of Eau Claire - Government...happy 150th Birthday!!! To commemorate this historic year for #EauClaireWI, members of all ages at ValleyBrook Church each-one-gave-one dollar to collectively gift this tree (located on the northside of Owen Park).”

**Employee Spotlight:** Here’s our next spotlight! (Highlight someone using this form: [Spotlight Form](#)). Today we are spotlighting

This week’s spotlight is for **Larry Palmer!** One of Larry’s co-workers said this about Larry: “Larry is always a kind and enjoyable person to work with. He listens and takes

*the time to take care of anything that one or often multiple people, might have wrong with their equipment.”*

Here’s a little bit more about Larry:

- **Position:** “I am a mechanic and have been with the city since 2000. Started as a transit mechanic then switched to the CESA shop specializing on the squad cars. I am currently the lead tech, so I try to keep the shop organized and operating as smooth as possible.”
- **What people may not know:** “I have three grown children. Two live in the area and one in Texas. We have four grandkids.”
- **Favorite Activity:** “I really enjoy trout fishing.”
- **Best part about working for the City:** “Working for the city gives me personal satisfaction of making it better here.”
- **Life philosophy:** “I have always tried to treat coworkers the way I would like to be treated.”



## **Council Calendar**

- Tuesday, August 9: Regular Council Meeting (no meeting on Monday, August 8th)
  - Monday, August 15th: DOR releases 2021 certified equalized, TID, and net new construction values
- Monday, August 22: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night (unless no items)
- Tuesday, August 23: Regular Council Meeting
  - Wednesday, August 31st: Final deadline for ballot question
  - Tuesday, September 20th, DOR certifies percent change in Consumer Price Index
- Monday, September 12: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night (unless no items)
- Tuesday, September 13: Regular Council Meeting
- Monday, September 25: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night (unless no items)
- Tuesday, September 26: Regular Council Meeting
  - 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 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Planning Budget
  - First Public Hearing on the Proposed 2023 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
  - Tuesday, November 8th: General Election, with referendum ballot question
- TBD in November:
  - Budget amendments due
  - Second Public Hearing on 2023 Proposed Operating Budget
  - City Council action on 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Planning Budget
  - City Council action on 2023 Proposed Operating Budget
  - City Council action on levy

## **Additional Dates**

- Hmong Mutual Assistance Picnic, 8/6
- Labor Day (City Offices Closed): 9/5
- City Services Bus Tour Dates: 9/11, 10/6, and 10/20 (Sign up by August 12th.)

## **Community Services Updates:**

**Recreation:** In addition to National Night Out, here are some more program-area updates:

- Many summer programs are wrapping up this week. Reporting information must be submitted to ECASD by August 30. This reporting will take all month for staff to record data, assemble, review, and approve.

- Fall youth flag football league teams have 225 participants enrolled and staff are now recruiting coaches and officials. Fairfax Pool had to close 1 ½ days after the second fecal incident of the summer on July 30th.
- The weekend of July 29-31 Hobbs Ice Arena hosted the Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association U12 Girls Development Clinic. There were eight teams of U12 players from around the state along with coaches from around the state. There was also a WAHA Girls Officials Clinic in conjunction with this event and the officials for the weekend's games were all women so the entire weekend was dedicated to girls' hockey and officiating.

**Transit:** The fifth of eight major concrete pours at the new Transfer Center site took place successfully on July 26th. The sixth pour is tentatively scheduled for August 23rd. Weekday Average Ridership was 1,235 for July. This is up 16% from July 2021 (1,067). Down 37% from the pre-pandemic July 2019 (1,956). Average Fare Box weekday revenues for July was \$321. Revenues are up 4% from July 2021 (\$309) and down 34% from the July 2019 average (\$487).

**Parks:** Forestry staff have been working on tree removals at the new Cannery Park location to prepare for construction. Dirt from the Jeffers Road detention pond project will be brought in to the Cannery Park site to create a sledding hill and the area for the playground.

The Forestry Crew also responded to a request from the Fire Department to remove some tree branches overhanging the Eau Claire River that have been making a dangerous stretch for tubers. The removal will help reduce emergency calls by folks who have been snagged on their way down the river.

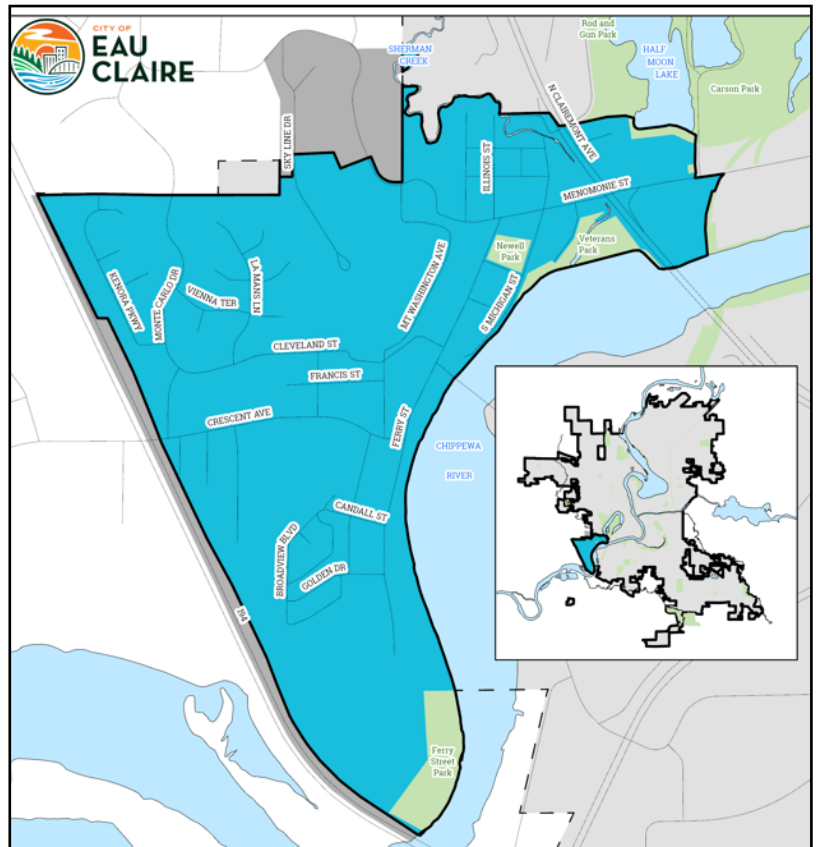
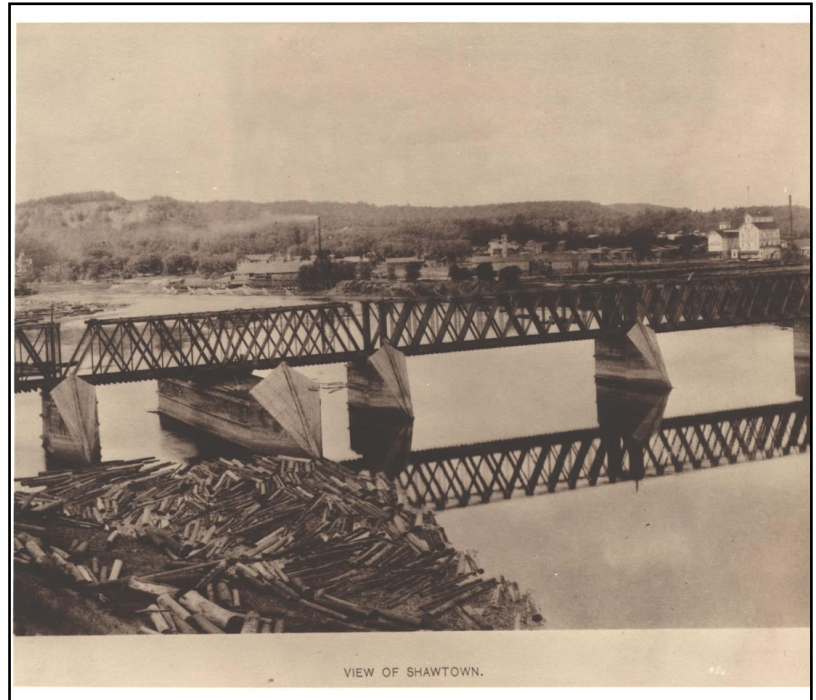
**Streets:** Here are some updates from different areas of the Streets Division:

- Street Centerline and Bike Lane repainting projects have been completed by the contractor. The Streets Division painting crews are currently working on repainting crosswalks and symbols. The paint supply is still limited this year due to supply chain issues, but they have been able to get enough to stay on their annual schedule for repainting.
- The hot mastic joint-filling test project on Hastings Way and Farwell Street is complete and looks to be successful so far. The joints will be inspected again after the upcoming winter to see how they held up.
- Fleet staff just finished refurbishing four 2010 International plow trucks. The work included inspecting and replacing pins, bushings, and springs, plus sand-blasting and repainting. The cost to refurbish each truck was about \$20,000 and will extend the life of the truck another six-to-eight years. The cost to purchase replacement vehicles would be approximately \$260,000 each so the refurbishment project is a huge cost-saving to the City.

**Utilities:** Due to the dry conditions in the area, the Water Plant is seeing an increase in water usage. They are pumping an average of 14.3 million gallons per day, compared to a normal summertime average of about 11-13 million gallons per day or the year-round average of about 9 million gallons per day. At the Wastewater Treatment Plant, staff are starting a low dissolved oxygen operation trial this week. This is a long, slow process to maintain excellent treatment, while seeing lower operational costs.

**Community Development Update:**

**Shawtown Neighborhood Plan:** Planning staff are working with the Shawtown Neighborhood Association on their first-ever neighborhood plan. After a formal request from the Association to the Plan Commission late last year, the plan was placed in the 2022 Plan Commission Work Program. Staff are guiding the Association as they assemble their Steering Committee this month and soon thereafter kickoff the planning effort in earnest. Included here is a map Planning staff just crafted that shows the overall planning boundaries for the neighborhood. The Association boundaries extend outside current city limits, which reflects the historic Shawtown boundaries. The Shawtown Neighborhood Plan will focus only on areas within the city limits. Also included is “View of Shawtown” historic photo showing the grist mill (tall white structure on the right) and the lumberyards.



**Engineering Update:**

Long line pavement marking occurred around the City last week. There are some areas that still need to be addressed, and City crews are continuing to paint crosswalks, arrows and stop bars. Several of the railroad crossing locations had pavement marking updates to meet requirements from the Office of the Commissioner of Railroads.

Engineering staff continues to work on current capital improvement projects, review of development plans and related development agreements and worked to address the MPO's questions related to the Sanitary Sewer Area Plan Type I amendment.

