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

Future Trail Connection: Staff from Engineering and Community Services carried out a field review of the future trail connection from Carson Park to Rod and Gun Park. The path will run behind the YMCA Tennis Center and then along Half Moon Lake. The City has funding to construct a trail connecting the two parks in 2023. An open house will be scheduled soon to share plans with neighborhood associations. After that, the project heads to the Waterways and Parks Committee for approval and then on to the City Council for approval of the bids. Because the entire trail area is classified as a



wetland, the trail will be a boardwalk that rests on footings on top of the ground. As Deputy City Manager/Engineering Director Dave Solberg said, it is going to be an absolutely fabulous trail when it is finished and, we hope and expect, one of the best trails in this part of Wisconsin. Here is a picture of what it will resemble, though it'll be ten feet wide, so a bit larger than the one in the picture.

Potential Trail Improvements at City Wells: Also related to trails, the City's Parks and Forestry and City Utilities Divisions have been working with Chippewa Off-Road Bike Association (CORBA) to support their effort to make improvements or expansions to the trails at the City Wells property (see map below). They are seeking a Trail Accelerator grant through the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) to aid in the planning, funding, and ultimately the development process for new trails. The Wells currently has about 5K of ski trails on the property, and CORBA hopes an expansion can include a new singletrack for mountain biking and trail running. While in discussions with CORBA,

Community Services Director Lane Berg suggested that some of their new trail creation be designed to offer a college-length cross country trail so that UWEC can practice and maybe even compete at the Wells. CORBA will present their proposal to the Parks and Waterways Commission and, after approval, it will make its way to the Council. The Wells is not a park, but rather a green space owned by the City. It is, though, still subject to review from the Parks and Waterways Commission. Note that, if the planned trails cross into Airport Authority property, a separate agreement with the Airport Authority will be needed by CORBA.

CORBA Secretary, Walt Ostrander, wrote about the project: “The current ski trails are used by multiple High School cross country running teams and the UWEC cross country team for meets and practices, and we aim to partner with those groups to improve the current infrastructure to suit their needs for meets and recreation/practices, as well as support them with our usual ongoing maintenance. We also hope to introduce new cycling events yet to be seen in the Chippewa Valley area and expand our ability to bring trail recreation to underserved populations, including women riders and children. IMBA also prioritizes DEI initiatives within the community regarding this grant, including access for adaptive riders, which is something we'd like to explore with them regarding this project.”



Hazard Hunt: The City of Eau Claire recently hosted a regional “OSHA Safe and Sound Hazard Hunt”. Participants included staff and managers from 22 local businesses as well as officials from the Department of Safety and Professional Services. First, the group reviewed an overview of Eau Claire City safety protocols. Then teams carried out "Hazard Hunts" at these locations: Central Maintenance Facility, Hobbs Ice Arena, Wastewater Treatment Plan, Water Treatment Plant, and Fairfax Pool. At those locations, the teams were tasked with identifying risk factors that had been staged (as well as, potentially, any risks that were occurring without having been staged.) After the Hazard Hunt, the groups debriefed. Finally, officers from the Police Department trained participants



in best practices for an Active Shooter protocol. The goal of these events is to increase awareness of workplace risks and hazards.

A Few Q&As: Here is a sample of community questions that came up over the past week... Special thanks to our fantastic staff who are so diligent as they keep our City safe and running well!

- Request/Question: The Health Department received a question about dogs that had gotten sick, and a concern that there might be a link to the water fountain at the Southside dog park.
➔ *City Response:* The Community Service Department surveyed the entire property for dead animals or other contaminants but found none. They also collected a water sample and tested it at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for bacteria. The bacteria sample result was negative for coliform and E coli bacteria, and staff determined that the water at the south side dog park is safe to consume. (Any issues related to dogs sharing water bowls may require more thought and work, in consultation with partners at the Eau Claire County Humane Association.)
- Request/Question: The Health Department received calls about an unusual odor in the downtown last week.
➔ *City Response:* City staff investigated the report. They inspected sanitary manholes and the two sanitary siphons and did not find any abnormalities. They found that the sanitary sewer is flowing as expected. They also inspected storm manholes and inlets and did not find any standing water or dead animals.

Boyd Park Problem Solving Appreciation: It made my day to read this shout-out that Parks Manager Steve Plaza shared with our Engineering staff, in gratitude for their work on the water infrastructure below Boyd Park. He thanked the crews for the time and effort required to cap off the main waterline running through Boyd Park. Steve said, “I know working on a 90+ year old system brings its own challenges, and a project that should have taken a few hours turned into a few long days.” So much of the work that both Engineering and Community Services staff do works best when people don’t even know how much work goes into it – delivering clean water underground to each of our sinks, designing and maintaining roadways and trails, maintaining and improving our open spaces, and so much more. As Steve said, “Future generations who enjoy the park will not realize all that it took to construct the park, but they will enjoy your efforts for years to come. I know the project is budgeted in the Park Department, but working with Utilities, Streets, and Engineering has made this a true city effort.” As Utilities Supervisor Dave Roberts said, truly an example of: “One team....one mission.” Thank you to EVERYONE who has worked to helped this project and so many more move forward!

Wisconsin Tomorrow Workforce Action Accelerator: A recent event organized by Momentum West, Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce, and Competitive Wisconsin Inc. focused on how to address challenges with attracting and retaining employees to this region, and County Administrator Kathryn

Schauf and I sat on one of the panels. Information and related resources can be found here: [video excerpts](#) and [resources](#).

Employee Spotlight: Here's our next spotlight! (Give a shout-out to a City employee using this form: [Spotlight Form](#)).

This week's spotlight is for **Doug Hoffer**...

One of Doug's co-workers said this about Doug: *"Doug makes well-rounded decisions and advocates for the City's best interest. He has a sharp sense of reasoning behind his work. He often takes on tasks outside the realm of his position just to help. He is a very motivating coworker and brings out the best in people. He can improve anyone's mood almost instantaneously. He is very valuable to our department and I know many others."*



Here's a little bit more about Doug:

- **Position:** "My job is Deputy City Attorney, and I've been with the City of Eau Claire almost nine years."
- **What people may not know:** "I am proficient in Mandarin Chinese (I lived in Taiwan for two years)."
- **Favorite Activity:** "I enjoy watching and playing sports, and collecting sports memorabilia. The photo is me with one of my all-time favorite athletes Buster Douglas (former heavyweight boxing champion). I met him at an autograph show earlier this year and he was really cool!"
- **Best part about working for the City:** "I like working with great people striving to make a positive impact on our community, and I love being a lawyer."
- **Life philosophy:** "My life philosophy is 'treat people the way you want to be treated.'"
- **Also...** "I've been married 18 years and have two wonderful daughters (ages 13 and 15) who make fun of me way more than they should. Spending time with my family is when I am happiest."

Council Calendar

- 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
 - Possible check-in between City Manager and Council

- 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

- Employee and Council Member Library Tour: Between 8/23 and 8/31. [Sign up here.](#)
- Labor Day (City Offices Closed): Monday, 9/5
- Landfill Open House: Thursday, 9/8
- Swearing-In Ceremony for Officer Janari Glover: Friday, 9/9
- City Bus Tour: Dates in September and October. Please let me or Alia Johnson (alia.johnson@eauclairewi.gov) know if you'd like to join in on a tour, if space is available.

Library Updates: Library Director Nancy Milnor shared some Library updates, noting that it's a time of transition, so the situation changes on a daily basis. She reports that the Library staff are all moved into the remodeled building. Everyone has been busily unpacking. Almost all of the furniture and shelving are in place, as are the books and materials.

Here are a few building-related tasks that are still in progress:

- Finishing up the outdoor landscaping and seating;
- Installing fob-entry door locks;
- Installing "white board" glass panels;
- Setting up all of the public internet stations and self-checkouts, signage, meeting room, and study room technology; and
- Finishing installation of the automated materials handler for returns.

And here are some staff-related projects in progress.... For some staff who've never worked in the building pre-remodel, it's all new! We're doing lots of staff training on customer service, safety,

equipment, and procedures. We continue to target early September for opening, and will have more of an idea of an exact date by mid next week.



Fire Update: The Fire Department announces congratulations and appreciation for the following firefighters as they complete their 18-month probationary period:

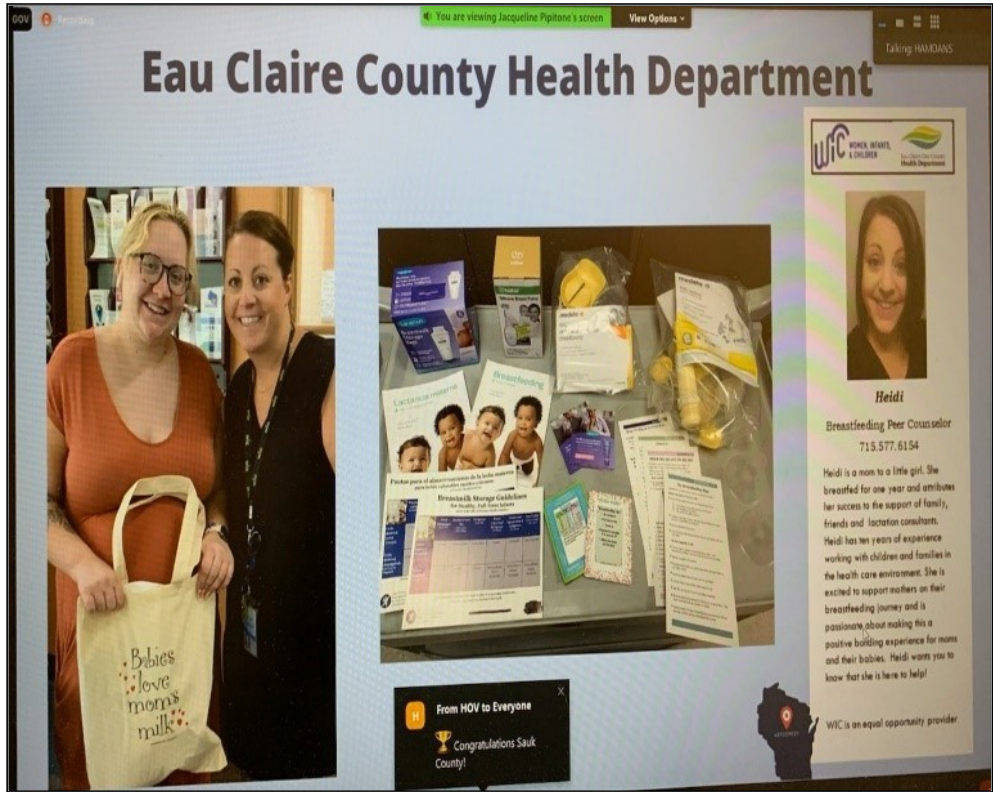
- Ashley Bauer
- Derek Mroczenski
- Sierra Renderman
- Joey Vleck
- Sophia Ritzinger
- Curtis Goodale
- Waylon Froeba

Over the past year and a half, these firefighter/paramedics have learned about our trade and craft while demonstrating a willingness to grow and develop into Eau Claire Firefighters.

They have successfully completed several benchmarks throughout their probation period. We wish them long and healthy careers serving the City of Eau Claire and surrounding communities. Welcome to the L487 family!

Health Department Updates:

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): The Eau Claire WIC Program recently received the WIC Breastfeeding Award of Excellence 2022 Premiere Awardee for their exemplary Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program by the U.S. Dept of Agriculture! The award is given at three levels of performance that build on one another: Gold, Premiere, and Elite. This approach recognizes three groups of agencies that include those that are demonstrating model practices, as well as those who are at varying stages of implementing exemplary breastfeeding promotion and support practices. WIC provides families with healthy food, nutrition education, breastfeeding



support, and access to many other health services. In Eau Claire in 2021, 2,583 individuals participated in the WIC Program. WIC benefits keep families strong and healthy! Babies born on WIC have better birth outcomes and better health later in life. The picture was from the virtual awards ceremony and depicts our Peer, Heidi doing what she does best....supporting WIC moms on their breastfeeding journey.

Monkeypox: As of 8/25/2022, 56 cases of monkeypox have been confirmed in Wisconsin. There have been no confirmed cases in Eau Claire County. The Health Department has a team focused on monkeypox vaccination, testing, case/contact follow up, public messaging, and health equity. If someone is seeking monkeypox vaccination, please refer them to the Health Department main office number at 715-839-4718 to see if they qualify and schedule vaccination.

Strategic Planning: The Health Department has started to work on the next three-year strategic plan for the Department that will run from 2023-2025. All staff and Board of Health members will be engaged in updating our mission, vision, guiding principles, and strategic goals over the next few months. A final plan will be presented to the Board of Health in December. The updated plan will inform updates to our performance measures and define priorities for the Health Department moving forward.

Lead testing for childcare facilities: The Health Department received funding to work with 12 large childcare facilities to sample all water fixtures (faucets and drinking fountains) for lead. We are excited to offer this service as it not only provides information to protect children from potential lead exposure, but also gives childcare facilities resources to replace any contaminated water fixtures. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services will coordinate testing and fixture replacement and the ECCCHD will work with the facilities to educate families and implement appropriate interim interventions until the fixtures can be replaced.

Overdose Prevention: The Community Health Promotion Division develops and disseminates a wide range of educational materials and videos regarding overdose prevention and opioids, and it has recently released videos focusing on medication safety (“What are opioids?” and “Signs of overdose”) are at local gas stations TVs and advertisements on streamed networks. Also related to overdose prevention, the Eau Claire City-County Health Department distributes the nasal-spray formulation of Narcan as a participant in the Wisconsin Dept of Health Services Narcan Direct Program. Narcan is an opioid antagonist, meaning it can restore breathing in a person experiencing an opioid overdose. Naloxone training and distribution is a best practice for local health departments for overdose prevention and is part of the recommendation from the opioid task force for overdose prevention. We provide educational trainings for various agencies and individuals to administer Narcan throughout Eau Claire County.