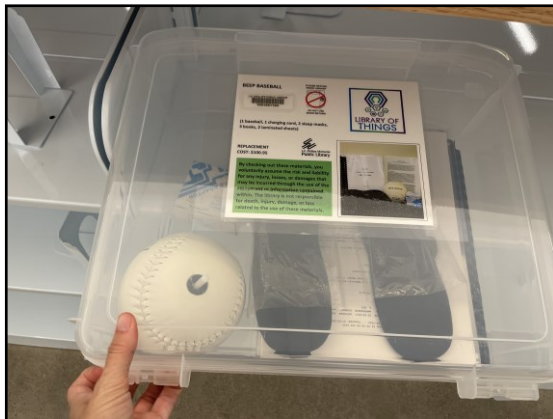


In This Update:

- **From the City Manager:** Library Tours, Opportunities for Council, HR Leadership, Home COVID Tests
- **Employee Spotlight**
- **Council Calendar**
- **Updates from:** Engineering, Community Services

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

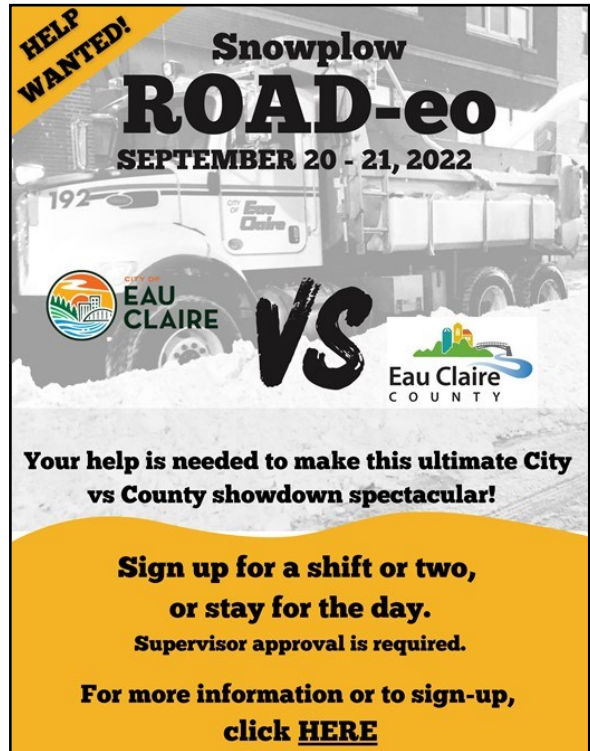
Library Tours: Thank you to Council Members who joined in on one of the Library Tours. Many employees toured the Library, and we really enjoyed it. What an amazing building! We will be communicating soon about the “soft launch” re-opening date of the Library, as well as about more formal re-opening events and logistics. Here are some pictures from the tour I attended.



Pictured here are Ned Noel very excited to see the Geothermal heat, members of the City IT Department testing out a bench, and a picture of one of the items that's possible to check out from the Library – a Beep Baseball kit!

Opportunities for Council: Please consider joining in on one of these events to participate in the work of the City...

- **Road-eo Helpers:** Your assistance is requested for the City vs County Snowplow Road-eo on September 20th and 21st from 7AM to 3PM at Carson Park. As part of the Road-eo, City and County employees with CDL licenses practice driving maneuvers while competing, as a fun way to prepare for and increase safety related to municipal operations and the winter plow season. Sign up for a short, two-hour shift, or stay for the day! The greatest need at this time is for judges on the course. No experience is necessary. It simply involves observing if drivers knock over cones or bump in to the “hazards” along the way. For more information and to register, click: [City of Eau Claire Employees: City/County Snowplow ROADeo \(signupgenius.com\)](http://City of Eau Claire Employees: City/County Snowplow ROADeo (signupgenius.com))



HELP WANTED!

Snowplow ROAD-eo

SEPTEMBER 20 - 21, 2022

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EAU CLAIRE

VS

Eau Claire COUNTY

Your help is needed to make this ultimate City vs County showdown spectacular!

Sign up for a shift or two, or stay for the day.
Supervisor approval is required.

For more information or to sign-up, click [HERE](#)

- **Clearwater Parade Float:** Council Members are invited to organize a float in this winter’s Clearwater Parade. Contact the Recreation Department for more information recreation@eauclairewi.gov. As part of the parade, City Departments volunteer to create displays. Last year, Engineering, the Library, Transit, Parks, Streets, Recreation, and Utilities all had floats in the parade, and Streets won the trophy last year. (Attached is a picture of the Streets’ winning float.) Judges will select the winning City entry. The winner will receive the highly coveted traveling trophy and will have bragging rights for the year. The theme this year is “Passport to Festivities Around the Globe”. The Parade will take place Friday, December 2nd at 6:30PM.



Spotted Downtown – Crack Sealing

Team: Later in this update, you'll read about the Streets Crack Sealing work... And I photobombed some Crack Sealing work downtown... Pictured here hard at work are Court Gunderson, JJ Jurewicz, and Troy Fransway, thankfully with a bit cooler weather for this important work that greatly extends the lifetime of our pavement.



Human Resources Leadership Plans: I'm excited to share the plans the HR Director's position with the retirement of Vicki Seltun. Colleen Schian, who has

been serving as Interim Director, will continue on as Director. She will also continue to wear her Risk Manager hat, while working to transfer her extensive and very specialized expertise to others. Colleen is widely respected as a tough champion of safety and the wellbeing and health of the city, but she's also very much known as kind and fair. She knows every corner of the city, and she's a master problem solver and a great colleague and collaborator. Transitioning over to HR to help cover the workload as an HR Manager will be Carrie Riepl, who has served as City Clerk for the past six years. Carrie is determined, organized, smart, and a systems thinker, with the ultimate "can do" approach to life. In recent years, these skills have been on display as she has tackled running Elections. Holding elections has proven to be one of the most challenging and high stakes areas of municipal governance in recent years, and Carrie has made the work look easy. Between Colleen, Carrie, and the other current amazing HR team members, the work of the Department will be coordinated to ensure continuity, to meet the challenges of this difficult labor market, and to handle all the complex HR issues that come up in municipal government. We look forward to supporting this team as they tackle the hard job of HR and, in doing a great job at this task, they in turn support all of us.

Home COVID Tests: The Health Department wanted to be sure that City Council members know about a new testing resource in Wisconsin. Residents can order more free home COVID tests via this website: [COVID Test webpage](#). Initial supplies allow for one package of tests to be ordered per address, and each package includes a total of five tests. More information on all testing options can be found at: [Symptoms & Testing | Coronavirus and COVID-19 Information Hub \(arcgis.com\)](#)

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 **Tim Anderson**...

One of Tim's co-workers said this about Tim: *"Tim is one of the nicest people you could ever get to know! He always has a positive outlook and is always praising his employees, and before they start their work day, Tim always tells them to be safe!"*

Here's a little bit more about Tim:

- **Position:** "I am currently a supervisor with the Street division, starting my career in 2008 as a light equipment operator, then moving up to a tandem operator, then a heavy operator before moving into the role as a supervisor."
- **What people may not know:** "Two of my brothers and I own a small beef and crop farm, I enjoy planting/harvesting of crops, and watching animals grow from babies up until the time they are sold. Farming is in my blood and my stress reliever."
- **Favorite Activity:** "I enjoy meeting new people, asking questions, and making new friends."
- **Best part about working for the City:** "I enjoy helping citizens even when they are upset with us, working through problems that arise, and trying to make the city a better place for everyone today and into the future."
- **Life philosophy:** "There is no I in team. We all have to work as one group and follow our core values."



Council Calendar

- Tuesday, September 20th, DOR certifies percent change in Consumer Price Index
- Monday, September 12: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night (Currently, no items, and meeting will be cancelled unless items are added)
- Tuesday, September 13: Regular Council Meeting
- Monday, September 26: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night (unless no items)
- Tuesday, September 27: Regular Council Meeting
 - 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

- Landfill Open House: Thursday, 9/8
- Swearing-In Ceremony for Officer Janari Glover: Friday, 9/9
- Road-eo: 9/20 and 9/21
- 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.
- Clearwater Parade: 12/2

Engineering Update:

Eddy Lane & Jeffers Road: The much-awaited Eddy Lane project opened for traffic this week! The improvements made at Melby Street and Eddy Lane this summer were originally approved in 2018 but had a delay with the railroad granting necessary permits. Work on Jeffers Road is continuing to progress well also. Approximately one third of Jeffers Road will be done this fall with the remaining two thirds to be finished next year.

Carson to Rod and Gun Trail Open House: Staff will host an open house for neighbors to review plans for the proposed boardwalk between Carson and Rod and Gun Parks on Wednesday, September 14th, beginning at 5:30PM. As mentioned in the last newsletter, the proposed boardwalk would actually lie on top of the ground instead of being excavated into it. This approach preserves the wetlands in the area, as well as preserves the maximum number of trees as possible. It also is the only construction option that would meet the DNR's permitting requirements for an area such as this. If approved, the boardwalk would provide beautiful views of Half Moon Lake and Carson Park, while traversing several different, distinct, and diverse ecosystems. There have been some concerns from members of the community who supported a different alignment for the trail. The alignment that was worked on in 2007 largely ran along Pine Park Drive and did not offer views of Half Moon Lake, and it would be difficult to permit because it would have involved excavating within the wetlands. The upcoming Open House will allow for community review and discussion of the current proposed plans.

Community Services Update:

Parks: Here are two updates...

- **Newell:** The last component of the Newell (Shawtown) Playground was completed this week, with the installation of an accessible sidewalk from the shelter to the playground and a skirt around the building to extend past the buildings dripline, which was in much-needed repair. City staff will backfill around the concrete and plant grass to control erosion and to keep water away from the playground surface.



- **Boyd:** Spohn Ranch is on site in Boyd Park to construct the skatepark, with the goal to be complete work by Halloween. Boyd Park's playground safety surface is scheduled to be installed the week of September 19th. The pad for the playground is completed, and the Solar Tree is scheduled to be installed in September to provide shade, seating, and light for the playground and skatepark, and for the ice rink come winter.

Utilities: Staff are gearing up for the biannual sludge haul. Twice yearly, Wastewater Treatment Plant staff distribute bio-solids onto local farm fields. The partnership benefits the Plant as they are able to dispose of a waste product, and it benefits the farmers who receive quality fertilizer for their crops.

Transit: Here are some Transit updates...

- **Transfer Center:** The sixth pour of eight major concrete pours at the Transfer Center site was successfully complete on August 26th.
- **UWEC Bus Service:** The University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire has



requested additional bus service during the evenings and on Saturdays during the school year. City staff have presented the University with an increased cost estimate, which Student Senate voted to approve. The next step will be a public hearing to gather community feedback, scheduled for Wednesday, September 7th, on the UWEC campus.

- High School Student Transit Use:

Recently, Transit staff met with representatives from North and Memorial High Schools to discuss collaborating on teaching their students how to utilize Eau Claire's public transit.

- Sounds like Summer: Transit staff wrapped up another fun season of meeting with the community at the weekly Sounds Like Summer Concert Series.

- Ridership: Weekday Average Ridership was 1,217 for August. This is up 15% from August 2021 (1,059) and down 35% from the pre-pandemic August 2019 (1,874). Average Fare Box weekday revenues for August is \$284. Revenues are down 3% from August 2021 (\$292) and down 46% from the August 2019 average (\$523).



Streets: And here are some Streets updates...

- Boyd Park: The Streets division continues to assist with the Boyd Park project. This week, crews have been trucking fill sand to the site.
- Mowing: This past week, the mowing crews were busy mowing along Hasting way from Clairemont Avenue to Melby Rd ahead of the holiday weekend.
- Sign shop: The sign shop crew has been busy with painting bike lane symbols.
- Catch Basins: Maintenance crews have been working on patching and inspecting catch basins and manhole structures.

- Crack Sealing: Pavement maintenance crews were busy crack sealing Farwell Street and connecting downtown streets.
- Toolcats: Fleet staff are busy installing two-way radios and safety lighting on the two new Bobcat Toolcats that were recently delivered. Attached are pictures of one of the units and some of the attachments. Unit #433 will be used by Parks and Unit #411 will be used by Streets.



Fleet: Every day the mechanics are busy performing preventive maintenance on the fleet of over 350 vehicles and equipment. Attached is a picture of George Clausen working on the Transit fleet.

Recreation: The 2022-23 Fall-Winter Prime Times brochure is out! View the catalog online at <http://www.eauclairewi.gov/primetimes>. Fall-Winter registration begins online Wednesday, September 7th at 8am!

