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

Welcome New Transit Manager: With the pending retirement of Tom Wagener, we are happy to announce that Tina Deetz has been named the next Transit Manager. Before coming to Eau Claire, Tina worked for a transit system in the Quad Cities. She did a great deal of work with their paratransit operation and made many improvements to that system. Tina is known for creating good relationships with her co-workers and subordinates. Outside of the workday, Tina is passionate about biking and often commutes to work via bike (six miles each way!). She's active in volunteer groups and is a proud member of CORBA (Chippewa Off Road Bike Association). Tina is married, with three sons and one daughter, and her family lives just south of Eau Claire. Congratulations and best wishes to Tina as she tackles this new role! Tina is pictured here giving new City Employees some transit information while they were touring the City last week.



Motion to Dismiss Town of Washington lawsuit: Last week, the City Attorney's Office filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit brought by the Town of Washington challenging a recent annexation. The Motion to Dismiss cited several deficiencies in the Complaint filed by the Town of Washington, including the Town's failure to follow a statutorily required step prior to filing the lawsuit. Additionally, the City's motion pointed out that both Wisconsin appellate courts that examined what property owner signatures are necessary in annexations concluded that publicly owned and non-developable land

(such as the park land in this case) does not count towards signature requirements. The City Attorney's office will continue to provide updates as circumstances warrant. No date has yet been set for a hearing on the City's motion to dismiss. Questions regarding the status of the litigation can be directed to the City Attorney's office.

Comp Plan Amendment Update: Also related to the recent annexation, you may have [read](#) that the Plan Commission did not approve the recent proposed revision to the Comprehensive Plan for some of the area that was annexed. A Comp Plan amendment is one of the steps of planning for the development of the new neighborhoods. The Plan Commission seeks more detail prior to a resubmittal of the amendment. The development team is regrouping and intends to resubmit a Comp Plan Amendment in conjunction with a Rezoning and General Development Plan request at a later date, once their plans are more detailed. Scott Allen reports that the primary takeaway from the Plan Commission's vote was to reconsider the location of the medium/high density residential as well as to provide more details. Stay tuned as the plans get refined.

DOR Releases CIP-U: As has been shared in prior Council budget calendars, the DOR released its CPI-U percent last week. This is the inflation factor that get used in the Expenditure Restraint and Levy Limit calculations. The 7.7 percent CPI-U that the DOR announced is very high. The good news is that this results in Eau Claire and other municipalities having a higher allowable increase in budgets and levies as compared to most other years. The bad news, however, is that the number matches inflation, and employees effectively have a decrease in spending power with such high inflation and raises that don't keep up to the cost of living.

Referendum Website: A website with lots of information about the referendum has been updated and is live here: [Public Safety Referendum | City of Eau Claire, Wisconsin \(eauclairewi.gov\)](#). The page includes basic information about the referendum, a fact sheet, an FAQ, upcoming informational meeting dates (also listed below in the Council calendar), interviews that the Chiefs have already done on the 715 Newsmakers podcast, voting information, and an email address and/or website form through which people can submit questions. Thank you to Tess Morgan, Chief Bell, and Chief Rokus for working hard to assemble information for the voters' deliberation on this important community decision.

Land Use Carbon Calculator: At their last meeting, the Plan Commission gave direction to the City to begin piloting the use of this [greenhouse gas emission calculator](#). The tool is specific to Eau Claire and first in the State to seek this information in development review. It will be useful in terms of how much new carbon emissions will be added to the City's 2015 baseline, given that the goal is to be carbon neutral by 2050. Note that updates on our municipal and carbon inventories will be provided in a month or two so that we can better understand if progress is being made on the interim goal of 30 percent reduction by 2030. Projects that trigger the calculation are major site plans and residential subdivisions above four lots. The tool has three scenario planning options to model various ways to mitigate emissions and compare results from the existing property condition. Included is a cheat sheet of common energy usage stats to aid the developer to estimate emissions. Also listed are [lots of net](#)

[zero energy resources](#). This pilot data will be useful for next year when the Planning Division undertakes the zoning code overhaul and works to determine how sustainability measure can be better incorporated.

Speed Bumps: Community Services crews recently installed speed bumps to address a safety concern of people using the driveways to Fairfax Baseball as a shortcut through street. They plan to reopen the driveway on Monday after the concrete cures over the weekend.

Council Opportunities: Consider joining in one or both of these upcoming events...



- **Fire Badge Pinning Ceremony:** Council members are invited to join in on a badge pinning ceremony for our recently hired and promoted Fire Department personnel on Friday, October 7th at 3PM at Fire Station 10. It is a great chance to meet and support our newest Fire staff and to offer encouragement and appreciation for staff who have been promoted. We hope you can join us!
- **Retirement Gathering:** Council Members are invited to a retirement gathering for Police Officer Clay Wanta, who has served the department for over 21 years. During Clay’s tenure, he worked as a Patrol Officer, was on the Crash Reconstruction team, and was an instructor for the Landlord/Tenant Program. Most recently, Officer Wanta was assigned as Detective in the Investigations Bureau to assist with a multitude of background investigations. Over the years, Clay was honored with two Chiefs’ Gold Coins, a WPPA’s Certificate of Merit in 2012, a Letter of Commendation, and

The Eau Claire Fire Department
cordially invites you to the
swearing-in ceremony of those personnel
recently hired and those promoted to the positions of
engineer, lieutenant, and captain.

Friday, October 7, 2022, at 3 p.m.
Eau Claire Fire Station #10
820 Malden Avenue

Hired 9-12-22: Kalab Evans
Scott Green
Clint Lightell
Dan Lympus
Jordan Ortmann
Riley Strohm

Promotions
Engineer: Steve Merkel
Andy Robinson
Pete Spencer

Lieutenant: Steve Patten

Captain: Tony Hennings

Please come celebrate with the honorees and their families.

multiple Letters of Recognition. A Retirement Party will be held on Monday, October 24, 2022, at 2PM in room 1301/1302 at the Courthouse (Law Enforcement Lobby).

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 **Sergeant Benjamin Wutschke!**

Ben's co-workers said this about him: *"A few things that come to mind [about Ben] are his work ethic, patience on cases, patience with us [the officers he supervises], and his ability to be in the right place at the right time for nearly every case on the screen. He genuinely cares about people and is a true representation of a public servant. He's amazing to work with and for and I am so thankful to have him on the night shift!"*



- **Position:** "I am a patrol sergeant on the night shift and have worked for the City for nine years. Before I was promoted, I was a patrol officer for five years and a detective for three years."
- **What people may not know:** "I am a recovering perfectionist. When I started my career in law enforcement, I was afraid of failing and being told I wasn't cut out for the job. It made me obsess over trying to do everything perfectly. Over the years, I have come to see the gift that imperfection and even failure can be. I hope to teach my kids this lesson."
- **Favorite activities:** "Doing anything with my family: going for a bike ride, playing in the yard, eating ice cream at Olson's, and anything else we can enjoy together."
- **Best part about working for the City:** "Being able to find meaning and purpose in my work through serving a community that I enjoy being part of."
- **Life philosophy:** "Care about people. Be humble. Be grateful. Stay curious."
- **Anything else?** "I'm proud to work with an excellent group of officers that perform exceptionally well despite facing many challenges. Shout out to every one of you for regularly going above and beyond, always being professional, and never giving up!"

Council Calendar

- Monday, September 26th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
 - o Public Hearing on the Proposed 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Planning Budget and Budget Process Update
- Tuesday, September 27th: Regular Council Meeting
 - o City Council action on 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Planning Budget
 - o Check-in between City Manager and Council
- ❖ *Saturday, October 1st: City Council receives 2023 Proposed Operating Budget*
- Tuesday, October 4th: Special Council Meeting - Operating Budget work session #1
- Monday, October 10th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
 - o First Public Hearing on the Proposed 2023 Operating Budget
- Tuesday, October 11th: Regular Council Meeting
 - o Operating Budget work session #2
- Tuesday, October 18th: Special Council Meeting - Operating Budget work session #3
- ❖ *Tuesday, October 18th: Budget amendments due*
- Monday, October 24: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
- Tuesday, October 25th: Regular Council Meeting
 - o Operating Budget work session – amendment discussion
- Monday, November 7th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
 - o Second Public Hearing on 2023 Proposed Operating Budget
- ❖ *Tuesday, November 8th: General Election, with referendum ballot question*
- Tuesday, November 8th: Regular Council Meeting
- Tuesday, November 15th: Special Council Meeting
 - o City Council action on 2023 Proposed Operating Budget
- Monday, November 21st: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
- Tuesday, November 22nd: Regular Council Meeting
 - o City Council action on 2023 Proposed Operating Budget (if not completed sooner)
 - o City Council action on levy
- ❖ *Tuesday, November 22nd: Deadline for Council action on 2023 budget and Levy*
- Monday, December 12th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night

- Tuesday, December 13th: Regular Council Meeting
- Monday, December 26th & Tuesday, December 27th: Historically, these meetings have been cancelled.

Additional Dates:

- Monday, September 26th, 3PM: Cannery LIHTC Housing Project Groundbreaking (1807 N. Oxford Ave.)
- Wednesday, September 28th, 9:30AM: Referendum Community Information Session, Wednesday (L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library - Riverview Conference Room)
- Thursday, September 29th: SCS Eau Claire Ceremonial Groundbreaking
- Tuesday, October 4th, 7PM: Referendum Community Information Session - Princeton Neighborhood Association Meeting (Princeton Valley Clubhouse, lower level)
- Wednesday, October 5th, 6PM: Referendum Community Information Session (L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library - Riverview Conference Room)
- Friday, October 7th, 3PM: Fire Badge Pinning Ceremony (Station 10)
- Monday, October 10th, 6PM: Referendum Community Information Session - Airport Neighborhood Association Meeting (Chippewa Valley Regional Airport)
- Tuesday, October 18th, 10AM: Referendum Community Information Session (L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library - Riverview Conference Room)
- 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.
- Wednesday, October 19th – Friday, October 21st: Wisconsin League of Cities Annual Conference (La Crosse)
- Monday, October 24th, 2PM: Retirement for Police Officer Clay Wanta (Law Enforcement Lobby at Courthouse)
- Thursday, December 1st, Morning: Housing Opportunities Conference
- Friday, December 2nd, Evening: Clearwater Parade

Health Department: Here are some Health Department Updates...

AODA Prevention Education National Night Out: On August 2nd, the Alliance attended the Eau Claire, Altoona, and Fall Creek National Night Out events. At these events, Alliance staff talked to kids about healthy coping strategies and handed out information to parents. We had a handful of Alliance members assist with tabling as well. Between the three events, we estimate we had nearly 1,000

people visit our booths. More information on the Alliance can be found at: [Alliance for Substance Misuse Prevention | City of Eau Claire, Wisconsin \(eauclairewi.gov\)](https://www.eauclairewi.gov/alliance-for-substance-misuse-prevention)

Medication Safety: In partnership with UW-Madison Division of Extension Eau Claire County, education around medication safety was provided throughout the County, as listed below. More on the work done in Eau Claire related to medication safety, opioid misuse prevention, and other drug misuse prevention is at: [Alliance for Substance Misuse Prevention | City of Eau Claire, Wisconsin \(eauclairewi.gov\)](https://www.eauclairewi.gov/alliance-for-substance-misuse-prevention)



- Eau Claire County Fair: Medication deactivation bags were distributed at the Fair, which supports youth learning and life skills. Education around medication safety and deactivation bags were shared with families and community members.
- Extension Latinx Open House: Extension ECC hosted a Latinx Open House for Latinx community members to share Extension and non-Extension resources. Education around medication safety in English and Spanish along with deactivation bags were distributed to families.
- Latinx Health Fair: Extension ECC partnered with Neighbor to Neighbor and other community partners to host the Latinx Health Fair for the Latinx community. Education around medication safety in English and Spanish along with deactivation bags were distributed to families and community members.

Monkeypox: As of September 16th, 69 cases of monkeypox have been confirmed in Wisconsin. There have been no confirmed cases in Eau Claire County. The growth curve of this outbreak has been declining statewide, as well as nationwide. The ECCCHD Monkeypox Response Team is actively vaccinating, testing, and conducting case follow-up to help stop the spread of monkeypox in our communities. ECCCHD continues to be one of the few Jynneos vaccinators in the Western Region. We have given 41 vaccinations to high-risk individuals who met WI DHS eligibility criteria. Twenty-two of those vaccinations have been given to EC County residents and 12 to non-residents. We have tested one individual in our Reproductive Health Clinic. Though there have been no confirmed cases in EC County, we have been notified of more than 20 individuals with suspect cases who have been tested, and we have follow-up with these individuals. The ECCCHD team continues to work closely with local healthcare partners, community organizations, WI DHS, and CDC to contain this outbreak. See these links for more information: [WI DHS Monkeypox](https://www.wisconsin.gov/dhs/monkeypox), [CDC 2022 U.S. Monkeypox Outbreak](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/s0916-monkeypox-outbreak.html)

Annual Beach Summary: Each summer, ECCCHD performs routine monitoring of seven swimming areas in Eau Claire County. This includes weekly surveillance for bacteria and algae, which is performed with field measurements, laboratory testing, and visual observation. The frequency of monitoring generally increases to daily when elevated bacteria or algae blooms are present. The Department typically begins monitoring prior to Memorial Day weekend and visits each site through Labor Day. The purpose of ECCCHD's beach monitoring program, which is among the most robust inland beach monitoring programs in Wisconsin, is to promote safe use of recreational waters in the county by informing users of any known hazards at these beaches and restricting use whenever there is high potential for illness during recreational use.

It was a very busy summer in this program in 2022, mainly due to persistent algae blooms in the waterbodies along the Eau Claire River. Collectively, the beaches in Eau Claire County were closed for a total of 106 days either due to elevated bacteria levels or the visible presence of a harmful algae bloom. Lake Altoona Beach had the highest number of closure days, with five individual closure events totaling 54 days (Note: eight of those days overlapped with a bacteria closure). Lake Eau Claire had two algae closures totaling 37 days as well as a two-day bacteria closure, totaling 39 days of closure. The longest visible harmful algae bloom occurred at Lake Eau Claire, lasting for 35 days from the beginning of August through Labor Day, when seasonal monitoring was discontinued. The beaches at Big Falls, Half Moon Lake, and Riverview Park were each closed at some point this summer. However, each was closed for five or fewer days. Both beaches at Coon Fork Lake stayed open for the entire beach season, which is the first time this has happened since 2016.

There were also two algae advisories issued in 2022. Advisories are generally posted whenever elevated harmful algae toxin levels are measured in the swimming area, but a harmful algae bloom is not visible on the water's surface. The two algae advisories occurred at Lake Altoona (one day succeeding and algae closure) and Big Falls (six consecutive days). Additional information about this program and the current beach status can be found here: <https://www.eauclairewi.gov/government/our-divisions/health-department/beach-closings>. Subscription email notifications are also available for those that would like to receive prompt notice of any changes to beach status. Please visit: <https://www.eauclairewi.gov/our-city/sign-up-for-e-notifications> to register!

Successfully implementing this program requires frequent coordination with both the City of Eau Claire Parks, Forest, and Cemetery Division and the Eau Claire County Parks & Forest Department, regular consultation with local users and interested organizations, and response to inquiries by the public and media. This was a busy season for all involved. Thank you to all that were connected to the implementation of this great program in 2022!

Day of Caring: Department staff has participated in the United Way Day of Caring in the Greater Chippewa Valley for a number of years. United Way Day of Caring is the largest one-day community service event in the Chippewa Valley! Volunteers from businesses in all sectors come together to help

our community and assist non-profit organizations with a variety of projects. This year's was held on Friday September 16th at Big Brothers Big Sisters, where ECCCHD staff assisted with outdoor maintenance. Below are some pictures of our team working hard to support the community!

