

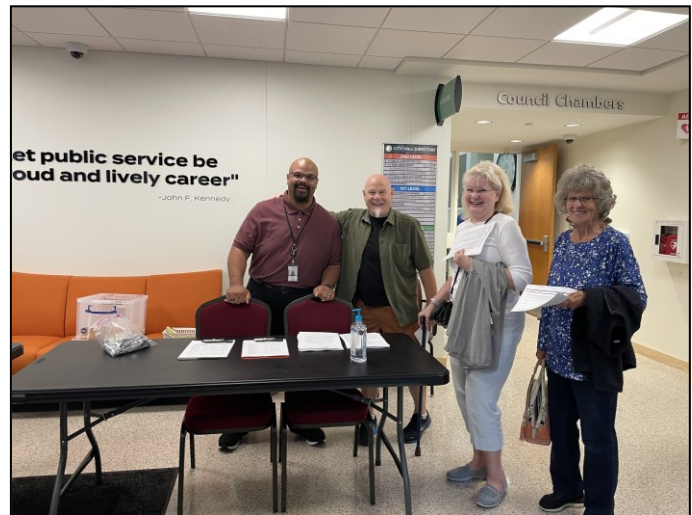
In This Update:

- **From the City Manager:** Staffing Updates, Eau Claire's Lorax, News Coverage, Rip Rap, Budget Planning, Drive Through Voting, Constituent Question and Answer, and Council Opportunities.
- **Employee Spotlight**
- **Council Calendar**
- **Department Update:** Police

From the City Manager:

Staffing Updates: We are happy to share updates about roles in the City Manager's Office. We have one new person, and two amazing current employees moving into new roles, as described below. Lots of moving pieces, but it will be exciting to see it all coming together and to see what we can tackle.

- **City Clerk:** Nick Koerner has served as Deputy City Clerk since 2019. As the Deputy City Clerk, he has managed most aspects of the City Elections, including during this past summer's record turnout election. He has helped the City stay on top of and manage changing election laws, promoting election integrity and earning the trust of residents and election advocates across the political spectrum. He has also served as Acting City Clerk when Carrie has been absent. Nick is known as very smart, thoughtful, ready to handle the toughest tasks, curious, and supportive of his team, with a dry sense of humor. Prior to coming to the City, he has pursued a wide set of experiences, including as a shift lead in warehousing and instructor of sociology. Nick lives on the Northside of Eau Claire in a busy family with three kids six and under! He is pictured here (on the left) at a poll worker training.



- Performance Management Coordinator: Billie Hufford will be taking on the new role of Performance Management Coordinator, which was created by repurposing funding due to retirements. She joined the City of Eau Claire in 2021, coming from the Kansas City, Missouri area, where she worked in Urban Planning. Before becoming a Planner, Billie rose through the ranks into increasingly responsible roles in the private sector, managing Long John Silver Restaurants and later, working as a

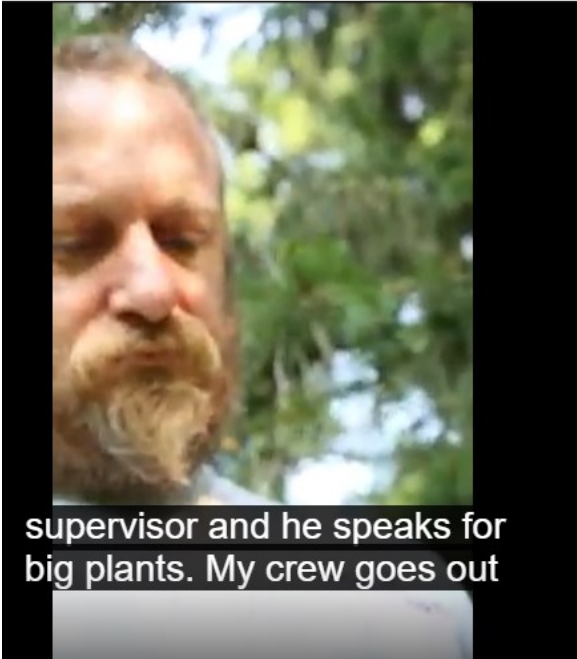


coach for Retention and Troubleshooting teams at T-Mobile. Then, she returned to school to study Urban Planning. In Eau Claire, she has supported planning, neighborhood associations, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, the Plan Commission, and much more. Billie is curious, principled, persistent, a very logical thinker, a data enthusiast, fun, and a great list maker (and all these talents will come in very handy as we try to stay on top of all the moving parts of the City!). She will be wearing two hats for a bit as she juggles duties in both Community Development and the City Manager’s Office. Outside of work, Billie can be found exploring the City – and investigating City design issues first hand – with her three wonderful dogs. Billie enjoys cruising around the City on her scooter, Dolly, and her e-bike. She is often found riding around neighborhoods with a barking bike trailer in tow. One of Billie’s favorite quotes is, “Never tell me the odds.” – Han Solo, The Empire Strikes Back. Billie is pictured here, second from the right, next to me.

- Senior Analyst: Also joining Billie to tackle citywide project management will be Travis Davis. Travis comes to us after wrapping up a career in the US Air Force, where he worked since 2008. In the Air Force, Travis handled complex logistics, administration, and support for a large military base, making sure conditions were safe, supportive, and efficient for staff. His work also impacted neighborhoods near the base. Travis was stationed in different places, including Okinawa, Japan, and he said that he gained a lot from working with people from so many different walks of life, helping them to problem solve and get used to life in the military. Travis has degrees in both Aerospace and Business Analytics, and we are really excited that he’s bringing his experiences and brainpower to support our new analytics and project management team. Travis came to our community with his wife, who is from Chippewa Falls, and he lives there now with his family.



Eau Claire’s Lorax: City’s Forester, Matt Staudenmaier, shared the news that a video made last fall that features some of our Owen Park trees and our staff won a Midwest Regional Emmy in the category of Environment Science – Short or Long Form. (see: [Upper Midwest Emmys®](#) |) The film, created by Micah Davis and Steve Betchkal, beat out five other nominees from Minneapolis and Iowa for best in Science/Environment. Take a look here – watching it is guaranteed to help you feel happy while also learning about our trees: <https://fb.watch/7CjxYPv02W/> The stars of the film are: the trees, Owen Park, and definitely the foresters. I liked this quote from Matt that shows how our foresters work so hard to care for the trees that most of us just get to enjoy and appreciate: “On the boulevard, there are about 33,108 trees... but who really is counting? Other than myself, and maybe five other people.”



News Coverage: We have had a lot of news coverage lately. Here are pictures of Chief Bell and Economic Development Manager Aaron White, both being interviewed by WQOW. Chief Bell was talking about the referendum (see [here](#)) and Aaron was talking about the Mall Redevelopment Plan. Aaron also appeared recently in a podcast about the Transfer Center progress, see: <https://715newsroom.com/news-makers-podcast/>



Rip Rap: Community Services Director Lane Berg shared that rip rap repair has been underway at Phoenix Park. Rip rap is stone that forms protection against erosion. Haas construction installed rock to stabilize a 250' stretch of shoreline that has suffered some erosion. Staff compared pictures from when the park was constructed to current day and the shoreline has changed significantly.



Budget planning:

- **Budget sessions:** Budget sessions continue this week with the following departments presenting on Tuesday: Library, Attorney's Office, Information Technology, HR/Risk, Police, Community Development, and Community Services.
- **Referendum work:** The two informational mailers related to the referendum will go out to residents in coming days. Thank you to all who have spent many of your free time attending informational meetings.

Drive through Voting: Drive through voting will occur between Monday, October 24 and Friday, November 4th. During the day, the parking lot will not be accessible.

Constituent Question and Answer: As you know, we get a lot of constituent questions that are staff work hard to answer. I thought I'd pass along one we got last week.

- **Question:** Is it possible for Costco to be a part of the plan ordered for viability at the Oakwood Mall? What about the empty Mega Foods store on Hastings Way?
- **Answer:** Costco first looked to Eau Claire for an expansion around 2018. They were shown the site they are currently building on and some vacant land near Fleet Farms, but were not interested in either site at that time. In late 2019, Oakwood Mall's ownership asked the City to create a TID and provide \$4 million in incentive payment to Costco to renovate part of the mall to accommodate the store's needs. Tax Increment Finance (TIF) laws do not, however, allow for that type of incentive.

Large stores like Costco rarely go into existing buildings or mall-type developments (other than an anchor to a strip center), as they have very specific requirements in terms of traffic counts, visibility, parking and delivery layout, other retailers on premise, and space configurations. The

site Costco chose is 28 acres, with better access and higher traffic counts than the Oakwood Mall area. The area is large enough for a 150,000 square foot store, and it meets their parking requirements. The Mall site could not accommodate a development of that size, and the existing space was not suitable for remodel. Stores like Costco have a very specific site plan and building floorplan. This consistency helps their logistics teams easily navigate each site for deliveries and keeps the layout familiar to customers from location to location. Retailers building a store as large as this one rarely find an existing building that meets their needs.

Council Opportunities: Between 3-5pm on Monday, October 31st, City Hall will be open to City employees and their kids, grandkids, friend kids, etc. The kids/adults can go from office to office to greet co-workers and collect candy. We'd love to have you join us, with or without any kids!

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

Today we highlight **Firefighter Paramedic Dan Lein**. More about Dan...

- **Hire Date:** "01/23/2017. Two days after my 27th birthday."
- **Hometown what you do to the area:** "Originally, I am from Long Island, NY. My grandparents bought a house on the west hill in Chippewa Falls in 1992 and I have been visiting ever since! As a kid I would spend every summer at their house in Chippewa. I lived in Chippewa for a few years before moving to California. I spent a couple years in California before moving back to my hometown in NY. In 2010, I made the decision to move back to Chippewa and officially call it home! I still believe that's the best decision I've ever made."
- **Training:** "I got most of my real-



world training while working as an Emergency Dept. Technician at Mayo ED and at Chippewa Fire District while getting my FireMedic degree at CVTC.”

- Favorite part about job: “I love how no two days are ever the same. The camaraderie of working 24 hour shifts with people you can call a brother or sister. It’s like a second family. For me, having the ability to be there for someone on their worst day and make a difference is the most rewarding part of this career. We get to experience things that most people may never have the chance to. There are so many different aspects and elements of this job that are both challenging and rewarding and I’m so glad to be a part of it.”
- Favorite things to do on days off: “If I don’t mention CrossFit, do I even do CrossFit?! I like to do CrossFit. 😊 I spend most of my time hanging out with my son Quentin (Q). Summer time we love taking out the boat, getting out on the lake, and having beach days. Winter time we ice fish. Hunting, fishing, hiking, live music, and campfires are some of our favorite things to do. When I am not with him, I like to spend time with friends.”

Council Calendar

- Tuesday, October 18th: Special Council Meeting - Operating Budget work session #3
 - Review Library, Attorney's Office, Information Technology, HR/Risk, Police, Community Development, and Community Services.
- ❖ *Friday, October 21st: Budget amendments due*
- Monday, October 24th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
- Tuesday, October 25th: Regular Council Meeting
 - Operating Budget work session – amendment discussion
- Monday, November 7th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
 - 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
 - Present Salary Plan
 - City Council action on 2023 Proposed Operating Budget
- Monday, November 21st: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
- Tuesday, November 22nd: Regular Council Meeting
- City Council action on 2023 Proposed Operating Budget (if not completed sooner)

- 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 Meetings – Will be cancelled

Additional Dates:

- Tuesday, October 18th, 10AM: Referendum Community Information Session (L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library - Riverview Conference Room)
- Wednesday, October 19th – Friday, October 21st: Wisconsin League of Cities Annual Conference (La Crosse)
- Thursday, October 20th: Eggs & Issues: The Economic Impact of Tourism
- Thursday, October 20th: City Tour: Please let me or Alia Johnson (alia.johnson@eauclairewi.gov) know if you'd like to join in on a tour, and we will check to see if any last-minute space is available.
- Thursday, October 20th, 7PM: Putnam Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting (Cornerstone Christian Church)
- Friday, October 21st, 11AM: Firefighters Memorial (Fire Station #10)
- Monday, October 24th, 2PM: Retirement for Police Officer Clay Wanta (Law Enforcement Lobby at Courthouse)
- Monday, October 24th through Friday, November 4th: Drive through voting in City Hall parking lot.
- Thursday, October 27th, 6PM: Hmong Mutual Association (1320 West Clairmont)
- Monday, October 31st, 3-5PM: Trick-or-Treating in City Hall for City employee families (and City Council member families)
- Wednesday, November 2nd, 5:30PM: Referendum Community Information Session (L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library - Riverview Conference Room)
- Thursday, December 1st, Morning: Housing Opportunities Conference
- Friday, December 2nd, Evening: Clearwater Parade

Police Updates:

Crisis Intervention Training: ECPD hosted a one-week crisis intervention training for first responders. We have been hosting crisis intervention training since 2015 and have trained over 150 first responders in the region. The ECPD Crisis Intervention Team was recently certified through the Wisconsin National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI). Sergeant Andy Wise, Officer Justin Greuel, and Officer Josh Miller received a letter of recognition for developing the crisis intervention training program and establishing relationships with a large variety of outside entities to



help conduct the training, including: Mayo Hospital, Department of Human Services, Chippewa Valley NAMI, University of Wisconsin Eau Claire, Corporation Council, Eau Claire County Veterans Services, and the Chippewa Valley Theatre Guild. Pictured here are first responders in CIT training.

Academy

Graduates: Seven officers graduated from the Chippewa Valley Law Enforcement Academy on Friday, October 7th. The Law Enforcement Academy is comprised of an 18-week (720



hours) training course that focuses on curriculum surrounding non-emergency response, emergency response, and investigations. The training criteria are set by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Bureau of Training and Standards, and the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Standards Board. The seven officers will now be placed in the 14-week Police Training Officer (PTO) program. Pictured here are Officers Marcus Kinblom, Nathan Kelly, Craig Richter, Matt Pahl in the back row, and Honor Guard Gracia Larson and Marcus Walden, Officer Marcus Drees, Deputy Chief Derek Thomas, Officers Jeremy Reeves and Margaret Andersen, and Honor Guard Greg Erickson and Renee Stoik in the front row.

Narcan: In August 2019, ECPD trained officers in administering Narcan to overdosed patients. Since that time, officers have saved 91 lives by administering Narcan. Just within the last three months, officers responded to 21 overdoses with one resulting in death. Of the 21 overdoses, officers administered Narcan eight times.

A Few More Pictures: Pictured below are a group shot of the most recent Employee tour, Eau Claire Police Officer Josh Miller and Eau Claire City Councilmember Joshua Miller, and K9 Bolt by the memorial rock outside the County Courthouse in commemoration of fallen Officer Robert Bolton. K9 Bolt was specifically named in honor of Officer Robert Bolton.

