

In This Update:

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From the City Manager:

Sewer Service Area Amendment: The City filed an application to amend the Urban Sewer Service Area (SSA) to allow public sanitary sewer service to all of the new Orchard Hills residential development area in the City. A portion of the recent annexed area is already in the SSA, while another portion is outside of it. Regional advisory review has occurred through West Central Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission (WCWRPC), and the application is now before DNR. DNR makes these decisions based on water quality standards, according to the Federal Clean Water Act. The City Attorney filed a letter brief in support of the amendment application this week. The original application was filed by the City Engineer this past summer. If you have any questions you can contact either Steve Nick or Dave Solberg.

Budget Process: Our budget process is nearing completion, however, we need to wait for the outcome of the Referendum to finalize the budget. Please note that we have shifted the second budget public hearing to Monday, November 21st. This was in order to allow for sufficient time for legally-required public notice, as budget hearings require longer notice than regular public hearings. The remaining steps are as follows:

- November 8th: Referendum outcome determined;
- November 15th: Budget Work Session;
- November 21st: Second public budget hearing; and
- November 22nd: Council takes action on budget and levy.

Conference Take-Aways: Thanks again, everyone, for sharing your reflections from the League of Wisconsin Municipalities Conference. The compilation of ideas is attached, and we will work to investigate these ideas and pursue all of the feasible ones in the coming months and years.

Retirement Party for Tom Wagener: This past week we held a retirement gathering for Tom Wagener. Many stories were shared. Tom has been a calm and strong leader during a very unusual time. He navigated the pandemic and a public/private venture (with multiple public entity partners, and multiple private party parties) with humor, wisdom, kindness, intelligence, and an even temperament. Tom, you have left your mark and we will really miss you! Pictures below include Tom being celebrated

at the 2022 WIPTA Conference and the Community Services party planning team setting up for his retirement get together.



United Way Chili Lunch: City staff recently held a Chili Cook-Off as a fundraiser for the annual United Way Campaign. Different staff members signed up to make and share their favorite chilis. Staff also helped by eating and voting! First place winner was Laurie Komro. A very close second place finish was Ruth Shermerhorn. Pictured here is the spread of food, and attached to this memo is the winning chili recipe!

Boardwalk Trail: Christien Huppert from Engineering and Steve Plaza from Parks presented the proposed boardwalk trail, which will connect Carson Park to Rod and Gun Park, at last week’s Parks and Waterways Committee meeting. The Committee provided unanimous support for the trail. Christien and Steve, along with Trevor Wittwer and Dave Solberg, worked really hard to put together the proposal. The trail will allow people of all mobility levels to get close to a unique, wetlands ecosystem, right within our City limits. Here’s a picture of Christien in front of



images of what the boardwalk will look like.

Council Calendar

- Monday, November 7th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
Tuesday, November 8th: General Election, with referendum ballot question
- Tuesday, November 8th: Regular Council Meeting
 - Present 2023 Proposed Operating Budget Fee Schedule
- Tuesday, November 15th: Special Council Meeting: Work Session on 2023 Proposed Operating Budget
 - Present 2023 Proposed Operating Budget Salary Plan
- Monday, November 21st: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
 - **UPDATED DATE: Second Public Hearing on 2023 Proposed Operating Budget**
- Tuesday, November 22nd: Regular Council Meeting
 - City Council action on 2023 Proposed Operating Budget
 - 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
 - Presentation of Health Insurance Renewal Rates and Options
- Monday, December 26th & Tuesday, December 27th Meetings – Will be cancelled



Additional Dates:

- Tuesday, October 25th through Friday, November 4th: Drive through voting in City Hall parking lot.
- Monday, October 31st, 3-5PM: Kids 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)
- Wednesday, November 9th, 8:30-10AM: EDC Economic Update, State of the Local Economy (CVTC Transportation Education Center)
- Thursday, December 1st, Morning: Housing Opportunities Conference
- Friday, December 2nd, Evening: Clearwater Parade

Updates from the Health Department:

Dementia Training: At the Health Department all staff meeting on October 13th, Lisa Wells, Dementia Care Specialist from the Aging and Disability Resource Center, provided an impactful dementia simulation. We learned all about the sensory deficits that can happen when people are living with dementia. We were instructed to bring items like sunglasses, a pair of gloves, a wallet, pad of paper, magazine, cell phone, and other objects. Lisa asked us to complete simple tasks such as writing a note, and taking our identification out of our wallet, which were more difficult when we were blocking some of our senses with gloves, sunglasses, and loud background noise. She also shared communication tips to use when working with someone living with dementia. More than 50 of our staff were able to attend this impactful training!

Wisconsin Well Woman Program: October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month! The Wisconsin Well Woman Program provides support to women who may not have health insurance or their insurance is not adequate.

What does the program cover?

- Breast cancer screenings every year: Clinical breast exam, mammogram
- Cervical cancer screenings: Pap test, pelvic exam, HPV testing
- Certain diagnostic testing as follow-up from abnormal screening results

*If you are enrolled in the WWWP and are diagnosed with breast cancer, cervical cancer, or pre-cancerous cervical lesion, you may be eligible for Wisconsin Well Woman Medicaid which covers the cost of cancer treatment.

Who is eligible?

- Women living in Wisconsin
- Age 45-64 (exceptions include 35-44 and having breast symptoms, and over 65 without



**Need a mammogram or pap test,
but can't afford it?
*we can help.***

**See if you qualify
for FREE cervical
or breast cancer
screenings!**

**Call 715-839-4718 or visit
wellwoman.echealthdepartment.org**

 

Medicare coverage)

- Meet the [income guidelines](#)
- Women who do not have health insurance, or the insurance they have doesn't cover routine check-ups and screening, or they are unable to pay the deductible or co-payment.

The Health Department provides multi-county WWWP services. This month we are also boosting advertising throughout the month as well as attending some fun events to promote Breast Cancer Awareness. More information on the Wisconsin Well Woman Program can be found here: [Cancer Screenings: Breast & Cervical | City of Eau Claire, Wisconsin \(eauclairewi.gov\)](#)

Housing Survey: The 2022 Housing Survey wrapped up in August. This year, the far West Side was surveyed with a total of 3,055 properties. The top violations that were found include the following: windows, soffit/fascia, outbuildings, and refuse. From here, we are working with a GIS Intern to develop a map that will show the average defects per block. This map will complete the five-year cycle of the Housing Survey. Next year, we will return to the Northeast Section which was surveyed in 2018. The Housing Survey is a first step in our more proactive housing health and safety work every year. Following the survey, we then begin verifying the defects at each eligible property, sending informative letters to the property owners, inspecting the properties, and then begin working with the property owners to keep their properties safe and healthy. More information about the Eau Claire City-County Health Department Housing Program is available at: [Housing & Inspections: Eau Claire City and County | City of Eau Claire, Wisconsin \(eauclairewi.gov\)](#)

Lead in Water Childcare Project Update: The Health Department is funding by the State for an initiative to sample for elevated lead levels in childcare centers in Eau Claire County. Funding is available for testing of all indoor and outdoor faucets at up to 12 centers. To date, nine centers are enrolled in this program and results have been received for three centers. Results have indicated elevated lead at a few faucets not typically used for drinking that will be receiving permanent signage to discourage people from drinking or filling water bottles at those sinks. One interior sink in a center kitchen had an initially high level of lead and is being retested to determine if a replacement is needed. Program staff is continuing to enroll additional centers and complete sampling (and resampling as needed). Fixtures that are in need of replacement due to lead exposure concerns will have the costs covered by the grant.

Overdose Data to Action community prevention grant (OD2A): The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire installed 19 Nalox-Zone boxes on campus. The boxes are located within residence halls and other high-traffic areas on campus for anyone to use in an emergency or as needed. Each box contains a box of Narcan nasal spray, CPR mask, instructions, and resources. Educational posters will be available around campus with the signs of an opioid overdose and how to respond. The poster has a QR code to the Chippewa Valley Resource guide created by the Eau Claire County Overdose Fatality Review project. The Health Department provided three trainings for faculty, staff, and students the end of the September on opioids, local data, how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose, and where to locate and how to use Narcan nasal spray.

COVID 19 Update: Here are some COVID 19 updates...

- **COVID levels:** COVID 19 community level remains low with 108 reported cases last week. The reported number of cases per day did increase slightly last week. The Health Department continues to track case, vaccine, and wastewater data as part of our surveillance efforts.
- **Testing:** Community demand for COVID 19 proctored testing has slowed. Home antigen tests are widely available, including through Health Department distribution, and are being used by many. The Health Department is no longer offering walk in PCR testing due to an end to the State program, but continues to give out free antigen home tests Monday - Friday 8AM-4:30PM. Accelerated Labs, operating at CVTC, decreased their hours this week. Current hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 2PM-6PM and Saturdays 10AM-2PM. Accelerated offers rapid antigen testing along with follow up PCR if necessary.
- **Vaccines:** The bivalent COVID vaccine is now approved for those five years and older. An individual is eligible if they completed their primary series, and it has been two months since their last COVID vaccination. We continue to operate our weekly COVID vaccination clinic every Tuesday from 4:30PM-6:30PM at the Health Department. There are four outreach adolescent immunization clinics planned to provide recommended adolescent vaccines along with flu and COVID 19 bivalent booster doses. Adult bivalent COVID boosters will also be available. One clinic has already been offered at the Bridge Creek fire station in Augusta and additional clinics will be held at the Altoona Fire Station, South Middle School, DeLong Middle School, and Northstar Middle School. We will be offering the following vaccines free of charge: flu vaccination to those 6months-18 years, HPV, Tdap, and Meningitis vaccine those under 18, and the COVID bivalent booster dose to anyone 5+. Vaccination continues for community outreach COVID clinics and for people of homebound status.
- **Situation Reports:** Our weekly COVID situation report will discontinue at the end of October. You can view the current situation report [here](#). Beginning in November you can find updated COVID information on our COVID web page [here](#) under the local statistics tab.

Reducing Divisions: (from Mónica Guzmán: Tips for "Fearlessly Curious" Conversations and How Curiosity Will Save Us | TED Talk)

- In conversations with people who have differing opinions, be curious and ask about their concerns with the issue in disagreement. Listen to understand first.
 - Start with: "What are your concerns". "Why" questions can feel like a trap or logic test and lead to repeating talking points.
 - Research on intellectual humility - feeling heard helps people become more mentally flexible.
 - Get to stories: "How did you come to believe what you believe?" Each person is an expert on own story.
 - When someone gets mad: "I had no idea that meant so much to you. Tell me more". "Anger in a conversation is like heat; it's good if it's cooking something, not if it's burning someone."
 - People imagine the "other side" has more extreme views than they really do. "Whoever is under represented in your life, will be over represented in your imagination."

Navigating Your Lane: Tips for Elected Officials:

- Turned into a very interesting discussion among about 100 elected officials in the room. Lots of viewpoints shared on how partisan politics interacts at the local level. Panel thought they do not mix but MANY in the audience disagreed and shared (very respectfully) why. Differing views in the room on the purpose of government at the local level. It was a very civil and respectful conversation with many different viewpoints. Learned a lot by just listening.
- One man brought up an example of how the abortion ban in Wisconsin might impact us at local level. Will our enforcement officers be mandated to enforce this 1849 legislation? This might be why local governments do need to take up the issue.

TID/TIFs:

- Difference in framing of why we use TIF...the presenters presented it as the "but for" applies to a certain developer and their gap in financing, but had always thought the purpose of a TID and using the "but for" rule applies to the neighborhood or area. As in, the area won't be economically improved unless the city intervenes with financial/capital assistance.
- Not as many communities use the year's extension for affordable housing as might be expected.
- Due to Wisconsin School District funding mechanism, when taxes are paid into a TID (vs. other taxing authorities), it does not impact the per pupil spending of the school district. This may be an argument for extending the TID and/or for transferring tax increment from a high-performing TID to a low-performing TID.
- Some communities have tried to figure out ways to have TID investments benefit School Districts, though the funding can't go to the actual school buildings.
- There may be an argument for increasing incentive payments to attract businesses, so that it's based on the developer's profit vs. based on a total percent of the project.

Lean Comp Plans:

- Historically planners like to describe all the things with lots of words but graphics and pictures tell a lot with less space. The plan can be decreased significantly by replacing paragraphs with images plus having better readability and comprehension.
- Other takeaways:
 - Are you putting things in the plan because you always have or because it is relevant?
 - Let engagement drive the plan, though also can use previous engagement exercises...don't need to start over with the comp plan. In EC case, we have community data from referendum survey and ARPA survey. We will have more community data from housing survey. Use this community data when doing a comp plan.
 - With community engagement, go where people feel most comfortable rather than expecting them to come to us. I.e: neighborhood meetings vs library meetings with referendum...we are having more engagement with neighborhood meetings.
 - Comp plan guides policy, it is not policy. Compared to zoning plan which is the policy (there has been confusion between comp plan and zoning plan in other communities).
 - Bayfield has a good lean comp plan.
 - Start small with a comp plan, and we can always add more, especially with data.
 - Seems like a lot of overlap between strategic plan and comp plan.

Workforce & Senior Housing Best Practices:

- Learned the term "0 lot line", which means duplex.
- Justification for large side yards was for fire safety so can get a ladder to the window and fire equipment near home. Not sure if this is still the case?
- Make right-of-way smaller to increase affordability?
- Extension of TID for affordable housing: one community used this as direct assistance to homeowners (owner occupied homes) so they can fix their homes to allow them to stay in their homes (NOAH!). Prioritized those with housing violations and need based and worked in tandem with RDA. They can put in stipulations that owners cannot fix and turn around and sell.
- Fort Atkinson did complete overhaul of zoning that helped them attract more housing developments. They shifted from four categories of housing to 12, and they did it quickly.

Childcare

- La Crosse is using \$2 million of ARPA funding to incentivize more childcare slots and retaining sites. (209,000 childcare jobs are currently unfilled.)

Reimagining Policing, Collaborating with Community:

- Heard an overview of the Co-Responder partnership between the La Crosse Police Department and La Crosse County Health and Human Service Crisis Program.
- La Crosse Police Department just over a year ago created a Community Resource Unit (CRU.) This is a "hybrid" community policing unit which works closely with Field Services, Investigative Services, County Health and Human Services, La Crosse School District, as well as our other community partners to address the unique needs of individuals experiencing mental health crises. Within this Unit is the Co-Responder Program. A La Crosse Police Officer and a La Crosse County Crisis Staff member, co-respond, partner and collaborate their responses to mental health calls for service. CRU also coordinates follow-

up contacts, working with the consumer and other services in the community for a wraparound service approach when needed.

- This was interesting to listen to and compare to what we do in Eau Claire. This whole concept is very interesting to many municipalities and Mayors, etc are curious to hear how it is working out in communities.
- With Emily's role in the league, Emily B may help coordinate a "White Paper" on this issue. After she fixes the shared revenue problem.

PFAS:

- There are PFAS and financial recovery options as well as opportunities to prevent future contamination.
- LWM has hired law firm that will talk to communities about steps they can take.
- Do communities have any regulatory authority of what goes into the wastewater?

Transportation (and/or Fire/EMS) Utility:

- A concept of a Transportation Utility allows a community to separate the costs of maintaining streets and billing customers, similar to how a water utility works, but with trips per day being the cost driver. This approach eliminates the need to have street assessments and shifts the cost of transportation of the residential tax base.
- Communities use different mechanisms to determine the rate charged to townships for providing EMS services, and the rate varies significantly.

Municipal Finance

- Many communities are struggling to know how to use the one-time extra high ERP allowable percent increase (which is due to the extra high CPI.) They have used approaches similar to ours.
- "People don't think there's a problem because we are performing miracles."
- Make sure to tap into federal infrastructure funding.

Employer of Choice

- Some communities that have had success with retention have pursued approaches focused on flexibility and quality of life.

WORK YOUR DAY

- Dress-for-your-day
- Flexible Hours
- Work-from-home
- Work-from-anywhere
- Be comfortable at work
- Attend to personal needs while at work...within reason.
- Grab a snack or a drink.
- Don't work your day...Take the day off!

From The Leagues' Priorities for the next Legislative Session:

1. Reform/Modernize How Municipalities are Funded a. Diversify
2. Local Revenue Sources/Reduce reliance on property tax b. Redesign Shared Revenue Program c. Create a separate pot of money to assist communities in paying for public safety d. Continue to invest in local transportation needs
3. Housing a. Create monetary incentives for communities that modify their zoning code and approval process to generate more workforce housing b. Expand existing affordable housing TIF Extension from 1 year to 2 or 3 years c. Expand levy limit workforce housing/density bonus d. Make other changes to TIF law – Mixed Use TID modifications
4. Improve Local Government Efficiencies a. Address the volunteer EMS/Firefighter shortage (may be completed with priority 1 above) b. Create monetary incentives for municipal collaboration in service delivery c. Authorize alternative project delivery methods such as: • Design build, Public-Private Partnerships, and Lease to own • Exempt lease payments from levy limits, similar to debt service. • Increase competitive bidding threshold
5. Municipal PFAS Solution – Develop a long-term PFAS revolving fund for municipal drinking water/wastewater/soil remedial action.

Laurie's Chili

1 lb. ground Beef (I used Venison)

1 lb. pork Sausage

1 15g Black Beans

4 garlic Cloves

1 15g CAN Kidney Beans

1 tsp. Basil

1 15g. pinto Beans

1 green Bell pepper diced

1 yellow Red Bell pepper diced

1 lg. onion (sweet)

1 4g. can tomato paste

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup chili powder

42g. CAN diced tomatoes

1 14g. can diced Tomatoes

1 tsp. Cinnamon

over →

3/4 Cup Brown Sugar

1/3 Cup Apple Cider Vinegar

1 Tablespoon Cayenne pepper

1/2 Cup Cocoa powder

4 stalks Celery diced

1 Tablespoon Worcestershire

pepper & Salt to taste

Brown Meats, onions, garlic, peppers
& Celery. Add all the other
ingredients and simmer on low
about 45 mins. to an hour.

enjoy! 😊