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From the City Manager:

Budget Process Wrap-Up: As a reminder, here are our remaining steps in this year's budget preparation process:

- November 8th: Referendum outcome determined;
- November 15th: Budget Work Session (if referendum passes, we may want to cancel this, as the budget will not change, except for the addition of the referendum-funded positions)
- November 21st: Second public budget hearing; and
- November 22nd: Council acts on budget and levy

If the referendum fails, we will likely be making more significant changes to the budget, and then we will present a new document to you later next week or over the weekend for discussion on the 15th.

City Hall Kids and Dogs Costume and Trick

Contest: We had a lot of fun welcoming dogs in costumes on Friday and then kids in costumes on the following Halloween Monday. Please take a minute [look at the dogs](#) who entered the costume and trick contest. Vote for your favorites! (Note that you are allowed to vote for ALL of them...) View and vote here:

<https://forms.gle/6tQGH6VWY6YT9Pze8>



New Streets and Fleet Manager: We are happy to share that Aaron Nicholson has been selected as the next Streets and Fleet Manager for the City of Eau Claire, replacing Steve Thompson, who will be retiring soon. Aaron obtained an Associate’s Degree in Business Management from CVTC, and he is nearing completion of a BA in Accounting. After completing his Accounting Degree, Aaron plans to pursue a Master’s Degree in Public Administration. Aaron currently works in the Utilities Division Water System Section. Aaron was born and raised in Eau Claire and graduated from Memorial. He lives in Eau Claire with his wife, son, and dog. Outside of work, Aaron has served on the Township Fire Department for 19 years, and he currently serves as the Town of Washington Battalion Chief. On January 1st, he will be promoted to Assistant Chief, serving all five Township Fire Departments. Aaron also enjoys family time, travelling, going up north to the cabin, and supporting his son’s interests. Congratulations Aaron!



Jacket Delivery: As mentioned in an email, each year, the Fire Department raises money to buy new coats and then coordinates with our local schools to offer them to children who need a good winter coat. The kids get to pick out their favorite style and color. Organizer Dave Pekol said that it is a project that brings their Department a lot of joy, as they watch so many kids get to pick out their favorite style and color. He said that the teachers tell them great stories about how much use the kids get from the coats. Here’s a picture of the group that helped each child find the perfect jacket in the Longfellow gym. Thanks to Council Member Jill Christopherson who joined in.



Poll Workers: Drive-through voting ended on Friday. Turnout was high, with almost 600 people on some days. City Clerk Nick Koerner said in this [WEAU article](#) that 7,000 people voted absentee as of Thursday. It was a lot of work for all involved. Here are staff, John Thompson and Jericho Jurewicz, helping with the process.



COVID-19 Waste Water Surveillance:

The City of Eau Claire participates in the State-organized COVID-19 Wastewater surveillance program. This program aims to better understand the spread of

COVID-19 in Wisconsin by testing samples of wastewater across the state to look for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. This project is a collaboration between the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and local water utilities, including the City of Eau Claire. Local participation has provided us with information about trends in COVID-19 disease, especially with reduced testing occurring. The Health Department analyzes and uses this data as part of our overall COVID response efforts.

In the most recent local surveillance data (see link below), we are observing moderate concentrations of SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater. This is an increase from the low concentrations we observed over the past couple of months. Although we have had this increase, we have not observed any significant trajectory in wastewater data that raises concern at this time. Traditional lab reporting has shown a slight increase in the number of COVID-19 cases; however, this increase is not yet statically significant. We continue to observe a gap between SARS-CoV-2 Concentrations in wastewater and COVID-19 cases identified through testing. This is due to decreasing testing practices both nationally and locally, increased access to and use of home tests, and asymptomatic infections that do not test. Given new variants gaining dominance and colder weather pushing activities indoors, the Health Department continues to monitor for signals of increasing trends in COVID-19 transmission. As a Health Department, we view wastewater monitoring as an important tool for understanding the true impact of COVID-19 given our testing limitations. To see the most up-to date wastewater data, you can view the [state wastewater dashboard](#).

Community Haven House: The planned Warming/Day Center is up and running, and the hours that the Center is open are listed to the right. The goal is to have it open eight hours every day, and they're hiring staff and transitioning toward that goal. The project is funded in large part through City ARPA funding.

**Community Haven
House Open Hours**

Location: 502 S Farewell St, Eau Claire, WI 54701
*Starting November 2nd

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| Monday | 8am - 12pm |
| Tuesday | 2pm - 5pm |
| Wednesday | 8am - 12pm |
| Thursday | 8am - 12pm |
| Friday | 9am - 3pm |
| Saturday | 11am - 6pm |
| Sunday | 9am - 3pm |

If you have any questions, you can email
ecwarmingcenter@gmail.com

Webinar Featuring Cory Tietz: Once again, one of our staff is demonstrating that we can take pride in Eau Claire’s programs and practices. Wisconsin Salt Wise at the League of Wisconsin Municipalities Annual Conference has a webinar next week Wednesday, November 9th, at noon that features Community Services Operations Coordinator Cory Tietz and focuses on “Eau Claire’s salt reduction strategies, successes, and next steps.” You can watch it here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1233942104020970> (Thanks, Jeremy, for sending along the link.)



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 (May be cancelled if referendum passes).
- Monday, November 21st: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
 - 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:

- 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

Employee Spotlight:

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

Today we highlight **Rodney Bonesteel**! One of Rodney’s co-workers said this about Rod: “Rodney is always willing to help. He fills in the missing pieces, and he tackles challenges others don’t. He’s like that family member who, when you invite them over to visit, ends up fixing all of the things you didn’t even know were broken. His knowledge of this building’s history is amazing. He’s such a great team player, and we are lucky he is on our team!”

More about Rod (who is pictured here with the coffee he prepares each day that keeps City Hall awake and happy!)



- Position: “I am a project Manager for the Engineering Department. I lead or assist with City Building Capital Improvement Projects. I assist with CIP budgeting for building projects and help with maintaining building systems. I have worked for the City of Eau Claire For 14-1/2 years. The first six leading building maintenance, the last 8-1/2 in Engineering.”
- What people may not know: “At two different times in my life I worked for companies that produced high-end electronic devices used in the medical industry and U.S. military.”

- Favorite activities: “I love the outdoors! All four seasons are good, but Fall is my favorite time of year. I love anything that keeps me busy outside at this time of year... fishing, camping, cutting fire wood, doesn’t matter too much what it is as long as I am outside.”
- Best part about working for the City: “I like being able to serve the needs of the City of Eau Claire Community. I like being able to help all departments and divisions within the City organization. I like the challenge of handling multiple projects and solving problems that arise.”
- Life philosophy: “I have several, but a couple of my most favorites that apply to working here are: ‘There are VERY FEW perfect systems or processes, almost everything evolves and can be improved upon. And the converse to that: ‘Be careful how you go about fixing and improving something that is working, lest you accidentally break it beyond repair.’”
- Anything else?: “Although, at times life can be difficult, it is also sweet and fleeting. Don’t wait for things to happen, lest life pass you by. Grab hold and enjoy the ride for as long as you can!”

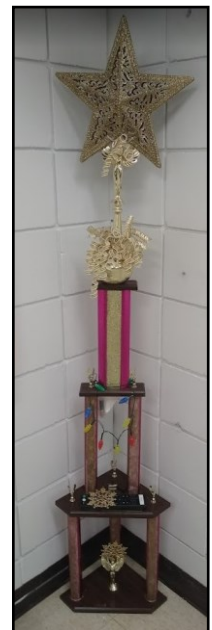
Updates from Community Services:

Streets: Street sweeping is progressing better than expected. The week of November 7th will be the last week of two-shift sweeping. In the next few weeks, additional night shifts may be added to clean streets in the University and Water Street areas, if weather permits. All main line ice control trucks are prepared for winter operations, and additional equipment can be deployed on short notice, if needed. All winter ice control materials are in stock and ready for use when conditions warrant.

Recreation: The Clearwater Winter Parade is scheduled for Friday, December 2nd. Staff have received 49 total entries, including nine City department/division entries. The City entries will battle it out to take home the highly-coveted travelling trophy (pictured here) currently held by the Streets Division.

Parks: Crews replaced the original doors on the restroom buildings at Phoenix Park with new steel doors. The original doors had been damaged over the years and were no longer able to lock securely. The new doors will make the restroom buildings more secure and less susceptible to vandalism.

Utilities: During routine cleaning and inspection, City well #13 was found to have some damage to the well screen. Contractors are working to repair it as the screen itself cannot be replaced. In PFAS news, Gannett Fleming is coordinating with City staff to determine the best type of media to be used for PFAS removal. Hydrant flushing is approximately 50 percent complete. During hydrant flushing on Wednesday, November 2nd, a water main on Vine Street broke. Crews and contractors acted quickly to make necessary repairs and restore water service to the affected homes.



A Few More Pictures... A few pictures of Halloween at City Halls.

Halloween at City Hall

