

In This Update:

- **From the City Manager:** Budget Process Wrap-Up, No Mow May, New Free Library, And the winners are...
- **Council Calendar**
- **Employee Spotlight**
- **One More Picture**

From the City Manager:

Budget Process Wrap-Up: Given the referendum’s passage this past week, we will not be making any changes to the budget, apart from modifying the Police and Fire budgets to account for the added positions that the referendum funds. Our Tuesday evening work sessions is cancelled, and our remaining budget-related work is as follows:

- November 21st:
 - Presentation of changes to budget
 - Second public budget hearing
 - Public discussion of amendments to Schedule of Fees and Licenses
 - Public discussion of amendments to Pay Plan and Practices
- November 22nd: Council acts on budget and levy

No Mow May: Council has expressed an interest in proceeding with some form of a No Mow May in 2023. Staff have been discussing the topic, and the Sustainability Advisory Committee will review staff feedback this Tuesday. See right for some data that has been collected for the SAC meeting, along with a picture of an ordinance violation (indicating how much growth occurred that year prior to the picture date of May 21st.) More detailed options and recommendations will be shared with the Council, perhaps by the December meeting. If the Council would like to move forward with the ordinance change, staff have requested a public discussion. Weed complaints

Some statistics concerning long grass violations in May:

2022 - 38 violations
2021 - 42 violations
2020 - 58 violations
2019 - 30 violations
2018 - 39 violations



are a common call to the City, especially in the spring, and we want to make sure the general public is aware of the proposed change.

New Free Library in Owen Park: Eau Claire Parks Department installed a new Free Library in Owen Park this week as part of an Early Literacy Coalition of the Chippewa Valley’s new initiative, promoting literacy for children by regularly filling little libraries with a curated selection of new children’s books which families may keep. This first little library is at Owen Park and donated by the Family Resource Center. Pictured here are: Kristian Larsen, Steve Plaza, Brian Baier, and Logan Butterfield. Library employee Jerissa Koenig co-chairs the Early Literacy Coalition of the Greater Chippewa Valley.



And the winners are.... Last week, there was an important election. And today we can announce the winners of ... the most cute and talented dogs of the City! (Spoiler alert – they are ALL the most cute and talented!) Here’s some more analysis...

- **Jovi** (dog of Heidi Ender), won the “I love my mom” award, with 68% of the votes. A distant second was “cutest traffic cone” award.
- **Murphy** (ECPD service dog) won the “very well trained and fierce police dog” award, with 28% of the vote. However, Murphy also won the “great mode of transportation” award and the “most popular” award, and the “has grown the most” award, all of which also generated at least 15% of the votes. People have lots of love for Murphy and really think he deserves every award that’s available.
- **Marco** (dog of Travis Davis) did a great job, with 44 percent of votes going to the “shiver me timbers” award! Marco also was the winner in the 12-years-old-and older category.
- **Walle** (dog to Billie Hufford) pulled off a big win with the "Spider dog, spider dog, does whatever a spider dog does" award, with 65% of vote. However, 22% of voters selected the much coveted “I am small but mighty” award.
- **Bailey** (dog to Jay Winzenz) had quite evenly split votes between the “City Hall is freaking me out” award, “salt and pepper” award, and “I’m so cute I don’t need a costume” award. Way to go Bailey on winning so many awards!

- **Indy** (dog to Corey Lee) supporters were very split between the “I hate my costume – get it off” award and the perhaps related “Houston, we have a problem here” award. Thank you, Indy, for wearing that uncomfortable costume just to entertain us!

And finally, we had lots of opinions about the tricks!

- The sophisticated and refined dogs, Bailey and Marco, both earned 14% of votes. One person said, about Jay’s dog Bailey: “I love doggie circles.” And people said about Travis’s dog: “Marco is old and deserves the credit!” and “Travis's dog reminded me of my dog and the ‘down’ command we use on him!”
- Murphy, earned 19% of votes. The main supporting argument for these votes were: “Love Murph!”
- Jovi and Walle tied at 21% of votes. “Heidi is really in tune with her dog,” said one voter. And another person said that Jovi “Just appears to be a well-trained dog.” About Walle, one person said: “I loved the costume on Billie's dog.”
- Corey’s dog Indy topped the pack at a stunning 24% of votes! “Super good doggie ignoring treats!” “I picked Corey's dog Indy because that takes a lot of patience and willpower for the dog to resist the treats. Well trained dog!”

Though it was a very competitive race, a remarkable number of people voted for ALL of the dogs.

Arguing this position, people said:

- “They all did a splendid job!”
- “All the pups are awesome; and all should win.”
- “All dogs are adorable.”
- “Cuz, DOGS!”
- “Can't watch this video at work (quiet public library customer service desk) but I don't need to see it to know they are all the best.”
- “Dogs are cute ;)”
- “They are all deserving :-)”
- “They are all fantastic!”

And going one step even further, one voter said that perhaps all the dogs AND ALL THE PEOPLE are all the best: “I love seeing people participate. It is great for community building! You all ROCK IT!”

Thanks for participating, everyone! It might be good to start practicing the tricks for next year...



Council Calendar

- November 21st:
 - Presentation of changes to budget
 - Second public budget hearing
 - Public discussion of amendments to Schedule of Fees and Licenses
 - Public discussion of amendments to Pay Plan and Practices
- November 22nd: Council acts on budget and 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:

- November 17th, Eggs & Issues: Election Analysis with the Marquette Poll's Charles Franklin
- Thursday, December 1st, Morning: Housing Opportunities Conference
- Friday, December 2nd, Evening: Clearwater Parade
- Tuesday, December 13th, Save the Date for Council/Staff Outing

Employee Spotlight:

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

Today we highlight **Aaron White!**

A co-worker said this about Aaron: “Aaron knows his job really well. He is always out front as a champion for Eau Claire and eager to bring more and better quality of life for the whole community. He does so much for Eau Claire -- he generates literally millions of dollars of revenue for the City -- but he is a humble, behind-the-scenes person... someone who does his job without ego and very well. We are fortunate to have him here!”

More about Aaron (who is pictured here on a combine from his farming days and then in Eau Claire, showing his versatility...)

- Position: “I have been the City Economic Development Manager/RDA Executive Director/DECI Executive Director since Dec. 2018.”
- What people may not know: “I used to farm for a



living, still a farmer at heart. While Director of Economic Development in a western Kansas town, I rented about 500 acres and raised wheat and milo. Photo of me in my combine during 2016 wheat harvest attached.”

- Favorite activities: “My favorite activities include predator hunting, woodworking, reading, and gaming (both online video games and tabletop action games) with friends and family.”
- Best part about working for the City: “I love to see projects move forward that benefit the community: housing, workforce, new business start-up, you name it. I love the variety of projects that come through our offices and the problem solving that goes with it. Seeing the community thrive is a major motivator for me.”
- Life philosophy: “Taken from my time in the Marine Corps: ‘Improvise, Adapt, and Overcome’”
- Anything else?: “Both of my daughters and their families have moved to the Chippewa Valley since we came here.”

And one more picture... Each year, a teacher from Regis Catholic Schools asks students to express thanks to City workers. The teacher said that it is “an exercise in thankfulness for the beautiful city we live in”. Here’s one example... It’s an excellent likeness of City Hall!

