

**In This Update:**

- **From the City Manager:** Budget Wrap-Up, Closed Session, Thank you to Steve Thompson, Housing Conference
- **Council Calendar**
- **Employee Spotlight:** Teresa Simbro
- **Department Updates:** Police, Community Services, Health
- **One More Picture**

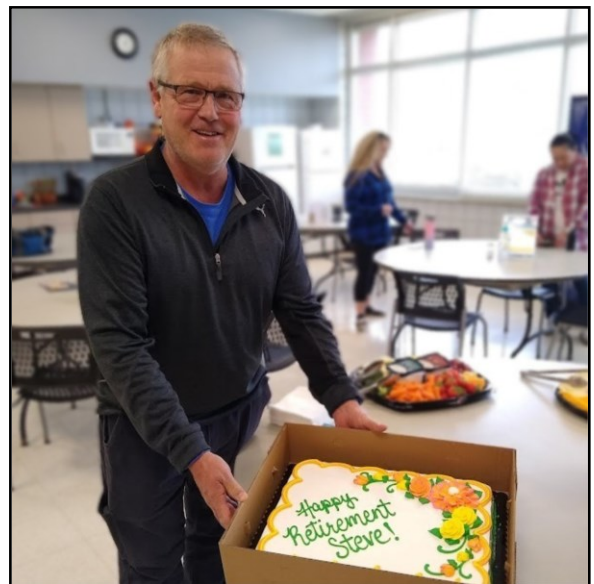
**From the City Manager:**

**Budget Process Wrap-Up:** As a reminder, we wrap up the budget this coming week with review and action on the [slightly revised budget](#), which now includes changes attributable to the referendum.

- Monday, 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
- Tuesday, November 22nd: Council acts on budget and levy

**Closed Session:** We have just added a closed session for Monday to allow for discussion of the possible purchase of 131 Farwell Street, which is adjacent to City Hall.

**Thank you to Steve Thompson:** Last week, we bid farewell and happy retirement to Steve Thompson, who is pictured here with his farewell cake. Since joining the organization in December of 2009, Steven Thompson played an integral part in improving street maintenance operations. From crack sealing to snow plowing, Steve has been passionate about ensuring the organization provided all community members with the highest level of service possible. Internally, Steve remained diligent in



ensuring that each department had the fleet equipment they needed to do their job while also striving to meet the City's carbon-neutral goals by introducing the organizations first hybrid electric SUV and fully electric lawnmowers into the fleet.

**Housing Conference:** The City's Housing Opportunities Commission will be hosting their 1st Annual Regional Housing Conference on Thursday, December 1st. The conference will have both in-person and virtual options. The conference will be held at Chippewa Valley Technical College - Business Education Center at 620 West Clairemont Avenue. The conference will be from 8:30-1:30, with lunch provided for in-person attendees. RSVP via the Outlook invite or contact me if you would like to attend.

### **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 – Cancelled
- Monday, January 9th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
- Tuesday, January 10th: Regular Council Meeting
- Monday, January 23rd: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
- Tuesday, January 24th: Regular Council Meeting

### **Additional Dates:**

- November 24th and 25th: City Buildings Closed for Thanksgiving (Library and Transit Open Friday)
- Thursday, December 1st, Morning: Housing Opportunities Conference
- Friday, December 2nd, Evening: Clearwater Parade
- Tuesday, December 13th, Save the Date for Council/Staff Outing

- December 16th: Eggs & Issues Holiday Legislative Breakfast
- Wednesday, January 25th: Chambers Eau What a Night

### **Employee Spotlight:**

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

Today we highlight **Teresa Simbro!**

A co-worker said this about **Teresa**: “Teresa is knowledgeable, resourceful, positive and extremely reliable”.

More about Teresa...

- **Position:** “I have been a Law Enforcement Associate with ECPD for 23 years.”
- **What people may not know:** “As a kid, I lived in a house where the original structure was a one room schoolhouse.”
- **Favorite activities:** “I love volunteering at Bob’s House For Dogs, baking, crafting, and camping with family. The photo is me and part of my crew at Pattison State Park by the waterfall.”
- **Best part about working for the City:** “I work with amazing people who do their best every day to help the citizens of Eau Claire.
- **Life philosophy:** “Family first. The days are long but the years are short – enjoy your crazy, chaotic, fun and weird family!”



### **Police Updates:**

**Did You Know - Shared Property Room:** The Eau Claire Police Department has a shared property room. In 2013, the Eau Claire Police Department (ECPD) and Eau Claire County Sheriff’s Office (ECSO) combined our property room into one. The ECSO took on the fingerprinting responsibilities in exchange for the ECPD taking on their property room. Both of the Property and Evidence Technicians are employees of the ECPD. The property room has storage at the Law Enforcement Center and off-site storage for long term and vehicle storage.

On average the property room takes in 6,500 pieces of property and disposes of approximately 4,800 per year. This includes property for both the Eau Claire Police Department and the Eau Claire County Sheriff’s Office. Currently, there are approximately 21,500 pieces of property, with about 75% belonging to the ECPD and 25% belonging to ECSO. The ECPD and ECSO share the cost of evidence packaging supplies through a Memorandum of Understanding.

One obstacle the property room has is storage, especially for biological evidence. Per state statute biological evidence must be retained until an offender is no longer on supervision. For example, if an offender was sentenced to 10 years in prison and 10 years of extended supervision, we must keep that piece of biological evidence for 20 years. Just this week we added a new refrigerator and freezer to help store the evidence as our current refrigerator and freezer are full.

**Beards for a Cause:** Lately you may have noticed officers growing beards; that is not because of untidiness, but it's for a good cause. Annually, the Eau Claire Police Department hosts a No-Shave November fundraiser to help support members of our local community who are being treated for cancer. When a family member or friend is being treated for cancer, even with great health insurance, cancer treatments can quickly get expensive and daily activities become a struggle. This year, to help a family member of the one of our team, we're raising funds to support the costs related to treatment for Officer Madi Harer's sister K.k., who is currently undergoing treatment for bladder cancer. You can read more about her fight against cancer [here](#).



If you are interested in participating in the fundraiser, ECPD ornaments will soon be available for purchase in the City Hall break room. They will be \$10 each.

**Meet the Eau Claire Police Department Honor Guard:** This distinguished specialty represents the Eau Claire Police Department and the City of Eau Claire at law enforcement, public, and private ceremonial events, including: officer funerals, memorials, ceremonies, graduations, sporting events and parades. Honor Guard members train monthly, practicing precision movements, marching, flag folding, rifle salutes, casket carrying, and funeral preparation. The Honor Guard often works with the Eau Claire Fire Department Honor Guard, Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard, and other teams in the region.

Members of the Honor Guard include: Lt. Jesse Henning, Officer Kyle Jentsch, Officer Greg Erickson, Officer Renee Stoik, Officer Taylor Comeau, Officer Marcus Walden, Officer Dominic Meincke, Officer Riley McLennan, Officer Matt Sanda, Officer Gracia Larson and Officer Brian Leach.

The Honor Guard has made notable appearances at the National Law Enforcement Memorial, The Wisconsin State Capitol, and Milwaukee Brewer and Bucks games, among others. Most recently, the Honor Guard was proud to present colors at the North High School Veterans Day Celebration.



**Community Services:** Here are some updates from all the divisions....

**Streets:**

- **New Streets Supervisor:** Congratulations to Chad Hesselink who has been promoted to Streets Supervisor. He began in his new role this week.
- **Winter Weather:** Streets crews have been busy with the winter weather we've had. Crews are plowing, sanding, and salting as needed to control slippery areas. Fleet staff continue to prepare all remaining snow removal equipment, dealing with maintenance issues as they arise, and staying on top of the regular preventative maintenance required on each of the over 350 vehicles and pieces of equipment.

## Recreation:

- Parade: The Clearwater Winter Parade has received 59 entries and staff are working to recruit volunteers. If you are interested in helping out, please sign up for a shift here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e45aaa822a1fd0-clearwater>
- Rinks: With the colder weather, staff are preparing to supervise the outdoor rinks at Boyd, Pinehurst, Roosevelt, and Putnam Heights. The rinks are scheduled to open just after Christmas; weather-dependent, of course. Carson Park Football concessions have wrapped up for the season. Staff will clean, inventory, and winterize the space. Over at Hobbs, Thanksgiving week is traditionally one of the busiest weeks for the facility. School's Out Open Skating, local high school and UWEC practices, and Eau Claire Memorial's Thanksgiving Tournament are all on the agenda. Unlike in previous years, the Turkey Trot will not be based out of Hobbs this year, which allows the facility to be closed on Thanksgiving Day this year.

## Parks:

- Green Waste Facility: The Green Waste Facility on Jeffers Road closed for the season on Wednesday, November 16th after another successful season. The site will reopen for the Merry Mulch Christmas Tree Recycling program closer to the Christmas holiday.
- Forestry: Forestry staff have completed the fall planting and have resumed their focus on pruning and scheduled tree removals.
- Winter Operations: Parks staff are shifting to winter operations. Trail clearing, grooming, rink upkeep, and more are regular parts of the winter schedule. Consistent weather below freezing is required before the outdoor skating rinks can be flooded and opened for use.

## Utilities:

- Treatment Plants: Operations at the Water Treatment Plant are running smoothly. The north settling basin is being cleaned and Well 13 is awaiting screen repairs and should be back online by early January. The Wastewater Treatment Plant is also operating smoothly. The fall bio-solids distribution effort is wrapping up. Sewer Collection crews are continuing their annual effort to cut roots away from the large-diameter mains.
- PFAS: Discussions are ongoing with the Department of Natural Resources and contractor Gannett Fleming concerning PFAS treatment design parameters and preliminary testing.
- Hydrant Flushing: Distribution staff have completed their fall hydrant flushing operation and are currently working on repairing water valves and hydrants.

## Transit:

- **Holiday Schedule:** Buses will not run on Thursday, November 24th for the Thanksgiving holiday. Operations will run normally the rest of the week.
- **UWEC Contract:** Eau Claire Transit and the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire are finalizing an agreement that would expand service to the University. The Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1310 has submitted a sideletter to their contract that would allow for the expansion of service. Both items will be reviewed by City Council at the November 22nd meeting.

**Health Department:** The Health Department is offering several vaccine clinics this week. It's a good idea to get your flu vaccine and fall COVID-19 booster before the holiday season. It takes about two weeks after getting a flu or COVID-19 vaccine for your body to build up defenses against infection, so getting up to date on those vaccines now can help protect you from becoming seriously ill with COVID-19 or the flu this winter season. It is safe to receive a COVID-19 vaccine and a flu shot at the same time. Both the flu shot and COVID vaccines are free at our clinics.

- **Monday November 21st, 3pm – 6pm**  
**What:** Flu shots (kids 6 months – 18 years), COVID boosters (kids 5 years+ and adults)  
**Where:** Health Department (720 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Eau Claire) Room 302, ground floor  
**Appointments:** Encouraged, not required. Sign up at [ecvaccine.as.me](https://ecvaccine.as.me).
- **Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 4:30-6:30pm**  
**What:** COVID vaccine (kids 6 months+ and adults), COVID boosters (5 years+ and adults)  
**Where:** Health Department (720 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Eau Claire) Room 302, ground floor  
**Appointments:** Encouraged, not required. Sign up at [ecvaccine.as.me](https://ecvaccine.as.me).
- **Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 4:30-8:30pm**  
**What:** COVID vaccine (6months+ and adults), COVID boosters (5 years+ and adults)  
**Where:** UWEC, Hass Fine Arts Center (121 Water St., Eau Claire)  
**Appointments:** Walk-in only, no appointment needed

**\*Flu shots for adults:** Adult flu shots are available at your local doctor's office or pharmacy. You can also visit [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov) to find more places to get a flu shot.

For more information on Health Department vaccine clinics, please visit our [COVID website](#), our [immunization webpage](#), or call us at 715-839-4718.

**And one more picture...** Audio Architects has been installing acoustic tiles to help deaden the echo that we get in some of our larger rooms in City Hall. (Rodney Bonesteel said on a tour that some of the City Hall and Library rooms were designed to make voices louder without amplification, given when the building was built, so the tiles will be helpful.) In many places, the tiles are simple grey tiles. But in the City Manager's office and some conference rooms, the tiles have images printed on them. In the City Manager's office, they represent a few of the things that make Eau Claire such a great place to live – our beautiful parks and bridges, our Farmer's Market, and Haymarket Plaza, which serves as a gathering place for people all year long. Here is the team installing the panels, along with our staff approving of the awesome new look. Stop by to see it when you are at City Hall!

