

In This Update:

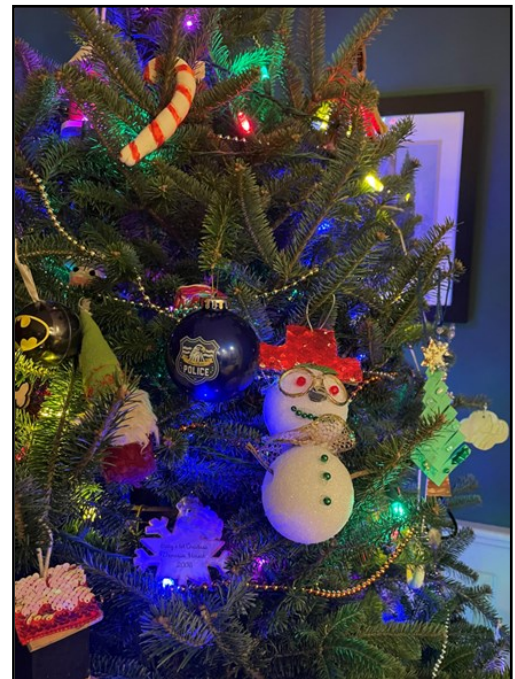
- **From the City Manager:** Beards for a Cause, Budget Thanks, and Update on Plus/The Rev and The Metro
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From the Manager

Beards for a Cause: Just a reminder, please consider buying an Eau Claire PD ornament to support the Police Department's No-Shave November fundraiser. The challenge involves ECPD staff growing beards and mustaches. This year, they are 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](#). Please let me know at any point if you'd like an ornament, and I'll deliver one to you at our next Council meeting. They cost \$10 each. Here's my ornament looking very nice on our tree! I understand that we will get to see pictures of the beards soon as well...

Budget thank you: Thanks again for the budget work that we wrapped up last week. It was a six-month process that started on May 31st when we kicked off the CIP budget work sessions. Over the past six months, we had staff transitions, including a new Finance Director, City Manager, and Lead Accountant. We had big projects, like the Referendum and APRA decision making. We held 10 budget work sessions, four budget public hearings or discussions, and at least 12 referendum meetings and forums. Much appreciation is due to:

- Kitzie Winters, Jason Rohloff who prepared the budget, with help from Christine Wagner and other Finance Department staff.
- Dave Solberg and Lane Berg who repeatedly refined the CIP budget.



- Jennifer Pempek and Vicki Franzen who worked round the clock to prepare the mill rate. This was a particularly challenging this year, because we didn't know the fate of the referendum until November. That meant there was very little time between getting the final budget numbers and preparing the mill rate. Thank you to Jennifer and Vicki for pulling off the feat!
- Tennille Goshaw, Colleen Schian, and Carrie Riepl who analyzed the wages that figure into the budget.
- Tess Morgan who served as the point person for the referendum, and the Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs and employee groups who gave up many of their fall evenings to attend referendum-related meetings.

At City Hall, we got a glimpse of the impact of the referendum last week. Due to the added revenue for 2023, the Fire Department has been hiring Firefighters and Paramedics, and that selection process occurred last week. City Hall was full of fresh faces looking to come work for the City. Those who served on the interview panels said that the candidates spoke highly about the reputation of Eau Claire's Fire Department. We are happy to see long-awaited progress on the front of adding public safety staff.

Update on Plus/The Rev and The Metro: Here is an update from our Law Department on downtown restaurant and event venues Plus/The Rev and The Metro. As a reminder, the two businesses both hold alcohol licenses and were both closed for more than two years beginning in early 2020. By City ordinance, an alcohol license that has been unused for 90 days is subject to revocation or nonrenewal. Rather than take the alcohol licenses, Council extended additional time for the businesses to reopen. The Plus/The Rev was able to do so and now holds regular hours of operation as part of the lively Barstow Street business district. The Metro has until New Year's to hold at least one event in the venue or the license will return to the City. To date, no events have been held; last week the property owner obtained a building permit for ongoing renovation work to include replacement of a kitchen and bathroom. Feel free to contact Assistant City Attorney Jenessa Stromberger with any questions.

Council Calendar:

- 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:

- Thursday, December 1st, Morning: Housing Opportunities Conference
- Friday, December 2nd, Evening: Clearwater Parade
- Tuesday, December 13th, 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 **Angie Seichter!**

Co-workers said this about **Angie**: “Angie is my co-worker and ‘trainer’. She is fun to work with and so good at her job and training me in my job. Angie is great with contractors, and the public when they come in with questions or are lost and need directions within the building, always with a smile...” and “She is ALWAYS helpful and smiling and doesn’t turn anyone (employee or resident) away with an answer such as, ‘that’s not my job.’”

More about Angie...

- Position: “I am the Administrative Associate with Community Development. I have been with the City for eight years in December.”
- What people may not know: “I was born in Iowa but raised in Osseo. I have been married to Jim for 26 years. Jim grew up in Boyd. Being small-town kids, we recently had a dream come true to move back to a small town after living in Eau Claire for 20-plus years while raising our two children of ages 20 and 23. This past April we purchased a lake home on Lake Eau Claire and the fun hasn’t stopped.”
- Favorite activities: “I enjoy cooking and baking, fishing, four-wheeling, family and friend time.”
- Best part about working for the City: “Our staff is such a great team. They make my job enjoyable and keep me smiling.”
- Life philosophy: “Never stop learning.”



AND ONE MORE PICTURE...

A historic room: Some staff members recently toured the Eau Claire Academy to learn more about it in case the now vacant facility could address any City facility needs. Pictured here... Lane Berg, Al Bertrang, and Doug Hoffer were happy to visit the room where John Guettinger was born on April 30th, 1955! By coincidence, or perhaps fate, that room is right next to St. John Ave. The facility used to be the first home of Sacred Heart hospital, before the current location of the hospital was built in 1963. There are no doubt a number more of our employees who were born in one of these rooms as well.

