



CITY MANAGER UPDATE TO THE CITY COUNCIL

In This Update:

- **From the City Manager:** Q&A on Lawn Chemicals, Police Promotions and Awards Ceremony, Article on Tracking Covid in Wastewater, PFAS Remediation, Two WPRA Awards,
- **Council Calendar**
- **A Few Pictures**

From the Manager

Q&A on Lawn Chemicals

Question: Can the City ban or limit the use of lawn chemicals that are injurious to pollinators, particularly large commercial uses of them?

Answer: For the most part, federal and state government has preempted local government from acting in this area. This memo from the Wisconsin Legislative Council in 2019 highlights federal and state regulation, and the few areas left to local government.

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lc/issue_briefs/2019/agriculture/ib_pesticides_el_2019_10_01

One of the areas left to local regulation is that of maintenance practices on City-owned property. The City uses natural or pollinator-friendly pesticides wherever possible. Below is a link to the City’s Integrated Pest Management Plan that the Parks Department follows. A few years ago, Parks shifted to 100 percent organic treatments in Phoenix Park and has had great success. Since chemical costs have gone up, the City has reduced the areas we treat to Phoenix Park and our athletic fields and a few smaller places. The Parks Division has Certified Landscape Techs on staff who apply treatments. The Integrated Pest Management Plan can be viewed in this link:

<https://www.eauclairewi.gov/government/our-divisions/parks-forestry-and-cemetery/parks/integrated-pest-management-plan> Note that the City does have a professional lawn care service that sprays Forest Hill and Lakeview Cemeteries in the spring and fall each year.

Police Promotions and Awards Ceremony: You are cordially invited to the Police Department Promotional and Awards Ceremony on **Tuesday, March 7th at 9AM** in the **County Board Room**.

CHIEF’S GOLD COIN	
<u>Patrol Division</u>	
Officer Zacharia Becker	– Exemplary, lifesaving water rescue on June 6, 2021
COMMENDATIONS	
<u>Patrol Division</u>	
Lieutenant Jesse Henning	– Exemplary leadership & organization through several major events
Officer Ryan Prock	– Life saving performance in the November 3, 2021 incident
<u>Investigations and Professional Standards Division</u>	
Lieutenant Ryan Dahlgren	– Critical role the Lily Peters Homicide Investigation
Detective Wayne Bjorkman	– Critical role the Lily Peters Homicide Investigation
<u>Communications Center</u>	
Supervisor Benjamin Williams	– Performance in the November 3, 2021 lifesaving incident
Telec. Madisen Scharlau	– Admirable professionalism displayed during a lifesaving call

Officer Olivia Erl has been selected for promotion to Sergeant of Police. The Promotional Ceremony will take place at 9AM, with an Awards Ceremony following to honor people being recognized with the Chief's Gold Coin and Commendation Coins. Those who received Value Coins in 2022 will be recognized on the ceremony brochure.

Article on Tracking Covid in Wastewater:

We are proud to share an article written by our Utilities Chemist, Ty Fadness, for the American Public Works Association's publication. Ty interviews utilities scientists from the Twin Cities about their tracking of Covid-19 in wastewater, which is also done in Eau Claire. Here's a quote from the article: "SARS-CoV-2 RNA appears in wastewater before clinical testing data are available, allowing it to serve as an early warning to health officials. Even people who are infected but asymptomatic discharge the virus to the sewer system." The full article is here:

<https://apwa.partica.online/reporter/february-2023/features/tracking-covid-19-in-wastewater>



PFAS Remediation: Eau Claire is receiving recognition for our proactive planning for remediation of PFAS, in anticipation of a lowering of the allowable limit to, potentially, a "non-detect" level. Senator Tammy Baldwin visited Eau Claire on Friday, toured the plant, and praised the City's efforts.

Related, Councilmember Werthmann shared this update and shout-out: "Last week, there was a meeting held about PFAS that was organized by a member of the Governor's PFAS Action Council, John Dickert, and attended by roughly 20 local leaders. I especially wanted to highlight the participation of our City staff who oversee Drinking Water, including Lane Berg, Cole Cloutier,



Ty Fadness and Ben Spanel. They shared a lot of good detail and demonstrated just how much our City has already done to address PFAS contamination. John shared that from all of his meetings around the state, our City was a leader on this issue, and he speaks from experience. We heard about a number of cities who had decided not to test or tried to dodge the issue by not being timely. Lane, Ty, Ben, and Cole all shared that our approach was full disclosure, address the problem head on, and be innovative in finding solutions. Proud to see our team in action and hear this feedback from a statewide expert that our City and our staff are leading the way on an issue that is so critical for our community. A huge thank you!”

Two WPRA Awards: The City of Eau Claire was very proud to be connected to two Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Awards, as follows:

Outstanding Park Design Award:

McDonough Park received a 2022 Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association “Outstanding Park Design Award” at their Annual State Conference last week. This award recognized the innovative design and purpose for creating an Active Senior Area in the Park. McDonough Park, once an underutilized space with frequent police activity, is now a vital part of the neighborhood. The improvements include an expanded shelter and steel roof with a grill, new playground, two concrete cornhole courts, two outdoor table tennis tables, a large checkerboard, shuffleboard courts, and bocce courts. The park now features bike racks, a water fountain, a storage shelter, outdoor exercise equipment, a Huffcutt restroom, and a concrete path that winds its way through the park connecting the half-court basketball court. We also created open views and seating areas throughout the park, and extended a gravel path to the end of the property overlooking Dells Pond while creating a nature walk. All of these amenities were designed specifically to be ADA accessible.



Many individuals, departments and service groups made the park a reality, including:

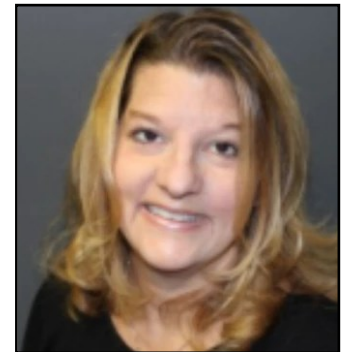
- Chippewa Valley Pickleball Association
- Marylyn Skivseth – Visionary
- Wisconsin DNR – Outdoor Recreation Grant
- Mayo Clinic – Hometown Health Grant
- Excel Energy – Day of Giving

- 60 individuals who donated funding
- Eau Claire Rotary Club
- Dave Markquart and Markquart Motors
- City of Eau Claire Engineering Department
- City of Eau Claire Recreation Department
- City of Eau Claire Street Department
- City of Eau Claire Parks & Forestry Department
- City of Eau Claire Utilities Department

Pictured above is Parks Manager Steve Plaza accepting the Outstanding Park Design Award from WPRA

Professional Award of Merit: Also at the WPRA conference, our Recreation Division Director, Dawn Comte, was awarded the “WPRA Professional Award of Merit.” This is the highest professional award given by WPRA to a park and recreation professional in the state of Wisconsin.

According to the press release: “Comte has been a WPRA member for 34 years and continues to be admired and respected for her professional leadership and commitment to the parks and recreation management profession. Dawn has held several positions in the parks and recreation industry over the years with continued community involvement.”



Way to go, Dawn!

Council Calendar (With Tentative Work Session Dates)

- Thursday, February 23rd: First Open House for the Public on Vehicle Registration Fee
- Monday, February 27th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
 - Continuation of Street Hearings
- Tuesday, February 28th: Council Meeting
 - Work Session or Study Session on Proposed Vehicle Registration
 - First Reading of Remote Participation Ordinance Change
 - Strategic Planning Work Session #2: Review of Community Values and 2023 Goals
- ❖ Wednesday, March 1st: Manager Evaluation responses due back to Human Resources.
- Thursday, March 2nd: Second Open House for the Public on Vehicle Registration Fee
- ❖ Tuesday, March 7th: Compilation of responses on Manager Evaluation will be emailed to Council Members and Manager for review
- Monday, March 13th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
- Tuesday, March 14th: Council Meeting

- First Reading of Proposed Vehicle Registration Tax (if requested by Council)
- Work Session on Boards, Commissions, and Committees
- Closed session: Manager Annual Evaluation
- Monday, March 27: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
 - Public Hearing on Proposed Vehicle Registration Tax (if requested by Council)
- Tuesday, March 28th: Council Meeting
 - Council action on Vehicle Registration Tax (if requested by Council)
 - Introduction of any ordinance changes related to Boards
 - CIP Budget Work Session #1: Financial Overview and Parameters
- Monday, April 10th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
- Tuesday, April 11th: Council Meeting
 - Last meeting for President Weld
 - Council action on any ordinance changes related to Boards
- Tuesday, April 18th: Organizational Meeting
- Tuesday, April 25th: Council Meeting
- ❖ Monday, May 1st: Council receives Proposed 2024-2028 CIP Budget
- Tuesday, May 9th: Council Meeting
 - Council 2024-2028 CIP Budget Work Session #2
- Tuesday, May 23rd: Council Meeting
 - Council 2024-2028 CIP Budget Work Session #3
- Monday, June 12th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
 - Public Discussion of 2024-2028 CIP Budget
- Tuesday, June 13th: Council Meeting
 - Council action on 2024-2028 CIP Budget

Additional Dates:

- POSTPONED -- Wednesday, February 22nd: 29th Annual Chippewa Valley Rally
- Tuesday, March 7th: Police Department Promotional and Awards Ceremony
- Friday, March 31st: Eggs and Issues Legislative Breakfast



A Few More Pictures: Here are a few more pictures from around Eau Claire. I'm very grateful to Kitzie and Dave for investigating and spearheading exploration of a Vehicle Registration Fee. Pictured here is Mark Nelson giving a tour to the Senator and Council. Mark, Ben, Ty, Cole, and Lane did an awesome job! Also pictured - Anooseh, Danya, Andrew, Larry, and Cory Tietz enjoy the tour. And finally, I saw this great scene walking home.

