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From the Manager

Spring Elections: Our Elections Department, including our City Clerk, are in between two elections. For each election, a lot of work happens even after all the votes are cast.

After this most recent high-turnout February election, City staff spent the days that followed taking care of a number of steps, in the midst of a big snow storm, including the following tasks:

- Jericho Jurewicz, Lyle Koerner, Jim Fletty, Brian Baier, Logan Butterfield, and Rebecca Draeger picked up all of the election machines and supplies from our 20 polling sites. They only got stuck in the snow a few times!
- Monty Kuechenmeister, Don Filter, and Nicholas Koerner delivered the voted ballots to the Eau Claire and Chippewa County clerks.
- The Elections Office staff then spent the next two weeks reconciling the February Election.



And now, they are preparing for the April Election!

Thank you and congratulations to Dawn! After decades of dedicated service, creativity, and FUN, Dawn Comte has retired as Recreation Manager. Her vision and leadership have left a lasting impact on the community and Recreation Division. The Recreation team is ready to continue providing excellent activities, facilities, and services to the community and residents of Eau Claire. In that spirit, Patrick Newkirk has been named as Interim Recreation Manager and will assume stewardship of the Recreation Division. Pete Seymour and the Hobbs operations crew will continue to manage day-to-day operations of Hobbs. The Recreation team has discussed responsibilities for the immediate future and are moving forward as a team with preparations for spring and summer activities.

Housing Needs Assessment Open Houses: The consultant who is working with the City and our regional partners will be hosting two open houses to share the data they have analyzed so far on housing demand, supply, and affordability. The meetings are March 15th, from 3 to 5PM at the Eau Claire Library and March 16th from 6 to 8PM at the Altoona Fish House.

Some Updates from Utilities: Here's some news from our Utilities Division...

- **Water Treatment Plant:** The Water Treatment Plant is preparing Well 13 to go back online, and Well 21 is up next for rehabilitation. The PFAS pilot project is ongoing and samples are being taken weekly. Samples will be sent out for analysis at the end of March.
- **Waste Water Treatment Plant:** A kickoff meeting for the start of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Facilities Plan Report is scheduled for the end of March. The Facilities Plan will take a close look at operations at the plant and make recommendations for improvements to existing operations and equipment replacements or upgrades. It helps to ensure that Eau Claire remains a leader in wastewater treatment.
- **Distribution/Customer Service:** There are two openings in the Water department, with interviews scheduled for March 15th. Crews have also been assisting Streets Division employees with plow operations and keeping inlets and storm mains open.

JOIN US
for an Open House!

Eau Claire Regional Housing Study

Learn more about the Eau Claire Regional Housing Study
A project of Eau Claire County, City of Eau Claire, and City of Altoona

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| EAU CLAIRE Wednesday, March 15 3:00 to 5:00 PM L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library Public Meeting Room 400 Eau Claire Street, Eau Claire | ALTOONA Thursday March 16 6:00 to 8:00 PM Fish House at Altoona City Park 418 9th Street West, Altoona |
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We look forward to seeing you!

Local Vehicle Registration Fee Public Meeting and Educational Materials: City staff will host another public discussion to answer questions and share information about the proposed fee. Note that a website on this topic is here: [Local Vehicle Registration Fee Information | City of Eau Claire, Wisconsin \(eauclairewi.gov\)](http://Local Vehicle Registration Fee Information | City of Eau Claire, Wisconsin (eauclairewi.gov)) That page includes information from other communities and from experts, like this article linked to the right.

Feature

Funding Options Needed for Infrastructure Maintenance
Jeff Mazanec, PE., Project Manager and Senior Consultant, raSmith

As costs increase and supply chains remain strained, Wisconsin communities struggle to keep up with street and road infrastructure maintenance. Even with the increases in general transportation aid and the local road improvement project funding in the past two state budgets, deferred maintenance looms large. Local street programs are funded through a variety of sources, all of which are stressed, while road construction and maintenance costs increase at even greater rates than general inflation. Meanwhile, pavement conditions continue to degrade as ongoing use and the impact of environmental conditions take their toll.

Rating Wisconsin Roadways
The State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) maintains a database that includes the age and condition of every local street's pavement surface, rated using the PASER (Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating) system's 10-point condition scale. The ratings are updated biannually and provide a reasonable picture of roadway condition and how it changes over time. Condition ratings are assigned based on a visual inspection of the roadway pavement surface condition and specific characteristics for Portland cement concrete (PCC) or bituminous asphalt pavements.

Based on each roadway's condition rating and the type of material (asphalt or PCC), a specific treatment is

to present rated condition and pavement age data for each community as a quick assessment of their overall roadway condition.

For example, graphics representing pavement condition and age in two Wisconsin communities, the cities of Oshkosh and Wisconsin Rapids, can be generated using data from WISLR records to illustrate typical roadway conditions across Wisconsin.

The graphics show that nearly 41 miles (16%) of the city of Oshkosh's total pavement surface has a PASER rating of 4 or less, indicating that it needs structural renewal or replacement.

Oshkosh Street Miles per Pavement Rating

| Pavement Rating | Street Miles |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 | 10 |
| 2 | 15 |
| 3 | 20 |
| 4 | 25 |
| 5 | 30 |
| 6 | 35 |
| 7 | 40 |
| 8 | 45 |
| 9 | 50 |
| 10 | 55 |

Council Calendar (With Tentative Work Session Dates)

- Monday, March 13th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
 - Street hearings continue
- Tuesday, March 14th: Council Meeting
 - Council Action on Ordinance on Remote Participation
 - First Reading of Proposed Local Vehicle Registration Fee
 - Study Session on Boards, Commissions, and Committees
 - Closed session: Manager Annual Evaluation
- Monday, March 27: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
 - Public Hearing on Proposed Local Vehicle Registration Fee
- Tuesday, March 28th: Council Meeting
 - Council action on Local Vehicle Registration Fee
 - Introduction of any ordinance changes related to Boards (60 days to take effect)
 - Study Session on location for Fireworks for summer of 2023
 - 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:

- Tuesday, March 7th: Police Department Promotional and Awards Ceremony
- Thursday, March 9th: LVRF Public Meeting
- Wednesday, March 15th: Housing Needs Assessment Open House in Eau Claire
- Thursday, March 16th: Housing Needs Assessment Open House in Altoona
- Wednesday, March 29th: 29th Annual Chippewa Valley Rally

- Friday, March 31st: Eggs and Issues Legislative Breakfast
- Friday, April 21st: Eggs and Issues State of Altoona
- Friday, July 28th: LWM Local Government 101

Employee Spotlight:

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

Today we highlight **Theresa Johnson!**

A coworker said this about Theresa: "She is a Veteran to the job, and so passionate about her work. She goes above and beyond every day and is a wonderful leader on our team."

Some more about Theresa...

- Your Position: "Telecommunicator in Eau Claire Communications Center, which is a Division of the Eau Claire Police Department."
- What people may not know: "I used to be a travel agent but have not flown since 1999! This may be due to the fact that my husband has never found a good reason to leave the ground other than being in a tree stand."
- Favorite activities: "Hunting/fishing."
- Best part about working for the City: "The people I work with. It is amazing the bond you can form with people during some of the most stressful times. We have each other's back and can always count on that!"
- Life Philosophy: "Always be kind and have a good sense of humor 😊"



