

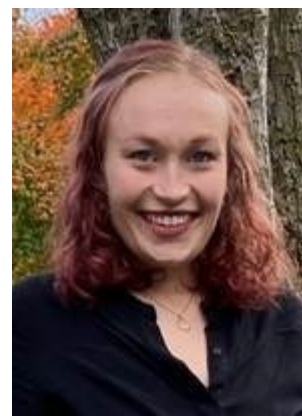
**In This Update:**

- **From the City Manager:** Snow Removal, ECPD Mental Health Co-Response Update, Sign up for Covid Updates, Tree City USA Approved, No Mow May Update, Youth Professional of the Year Award, Free Rides to Polls, Childcare Event, Idea Lounge on Issues Related to Unhoused Residents, Animal Licensing, So Much News, Police Promotion and Awards Ceremony
- **Council Calendar**
- **Employee Spotlight:** Captain Matthew Gunderson

**From the Manager**

**Ice Routes:** The snow kept falling all this past week, and our Streets crews along with other divisions that help plow continued to work to make roads less slippery and more passable. And our Transit Busses have kept on rolling all winter long, no matter the weather. Last weekend, there were 13 patrol trucks out scraping and spot salting the main arterial streets.

**ECPD Mental Health Co-Response Update:** The Police Department is pleased to announce the expansion of its Mental Health Co-Response program through a partnership with Eau Claire County Department of Human Services (DHS). Alyssa Monson, pictured here, has been hired by DHS as a Crisis Co-Response specialist and will be embedded at the Police Department working from 3PM until 11PM. This addition provides expanded hours of coverage and will further enhance the collaboration between the Police Department and service providers. Alyssa will be working out of the Police Department's Patrol Division.



With 2022 being the first full year with our Co-Response function, we have some statistics to share. There were 273 documented co-responses, and they resulted in the following outcomes:

- Four percent resulted in Emergency Detentions.
- Less than one percent resulted in arrest. The arrests that occurred were mandatory arrest situations as required by State statute.
- 95 percent resulted in person remaining in community with warm hand-off to services.

We are very proud of the expansion of this function, the value it provides to community members, and the efficiency it affords our officers.

**Reminder on How to Sign up for Covid Updates:** The Health Department recently shared that they continue to focus on understanding local trends related to COVID-19 and continue to provide updates and resources to the community. They share a monthly update, and you can sign up to receive those here: [Signup Form \(constantcontactpages.com\)](https://www.constantcontactpages.com) Finally, they keep their website updated for the general public. [Coronavirus and COVID-19 Information Hub \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

**Tree City USA Approved:** Last week, the City received notice from the Arbor Day Foundation that we have once again earned recognition as a 2022 Tree City USA. Well deserved for our awesome forestry crews!

**No Mow May Updates:** The resident group that's taking the lead on public education related to No Mow May and pollinator efforts shared an update. With support from two grants that they sought and were awarded, leaders said that they are currently putting the finishing touches on a list of events throughout the spring and summer. These will be referenced in the County's recycler mailing that will be going out soon. Examples of events include: a pollinator art contest for students, an entomologist talk at the Library, and an alternative lawn tour. It looks like an amazing lineup! The collaborative is called Chippewa Valley Pollinator Partnership and it's a collaboration of many organizations within Eau Claire and beyond working to support our pollinators, including JONAH, Beaver Creek Reserve, the CV Sierra Club, EC Master Gardeners, the EC Garden Club, EC County Sustainability Coordinator, EC City Sustainability Advisory Board, Wisconsin Natural Resources Conservation Service Pollinator Liaison, the National Pollinator Partnership, and others.

**Youth Professional of the Year Award:** We are proud to share a shout out to Jacob Wiensch, Business and Communications Specialist for Economic Development Division, who was given the Young Professional of the Year Award by Momentum West at their Annual Luncheon and Economic Development Awards Program on Wednesday, March 8th. The Young Professional of the Year Award recognizes up-and-coming talent in the Economic Development field in a 10-county area around Eau Claire. Jake was recognized for his commitment to economic success in the Eau Claire area, whether it's managing the Loan Administration Board program, coordinating improvement projects on behalf of the BIDs, working with DECI on downtown promotion and development, or working on additional development opportunities. Momentum West is a regional economic development organization serving a 10-county area. It manages programming for business and talent attraction. The annual luncheon is an opportunity for Momentum West to recognize businesses and individuals that contribute to the growth of our area.



**Free Rides to Polls:** Transit Director, Tina Deetz, shared that our local Union ATU 1310 is sponsoring free fixed route trips on Election day, April 4th. She said: “The free trips are for anyone, all day, whether heading to the polls or not. You could make other stops on the way there or back if needed! No need to call and schedule an appointment. For information on where to catch an Eau Claire Transit fixed route bus you could call us at 715-839-5111 (7:30AM to 4PM) OR check [ecbus.org](http://ecbus.org). We have a real-time bus tracking system for passenger convenience.”

**Childcare Policy**

**Educational Event:** The Women’s Giving Circle’s annual educational event will focus on the topic of Childcare Challenges in the Chippewa Valley, with a panel of community experts (see image above). Join in if you are able/interested!

*Women's Giving Circle  
2023 Educational Event*

**Free Public Event**

**CHILDCARE CHALLENGES IN THE CHIPPEWA VALLEY**  
*HOW IT AFFECTS OUR COMMUNITY*

**Childcare Challenges in the Chippewa Valley:  
How It Affects Our Community**  
Monday, March 27, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. CST

**About the Event**  
Please join us for this free, informative event to hear from local experts about childcare challenges in our area, covering topics pertinent to working parents, their employers, and daycare providers. All are welcome to attend.

The event features a panel discussion with community experts...

- Janet Black, REACH, Inc. (Hand in Hand)
- Amanda Dohms, CVTC
- Renee Ernsting, Western Dairyland
- Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Retired Educator

*Scroll down to learn about the panelists.*

Register below to watch the event online. This is a hybrid event taking place in the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library's Riverview Room (400 Eau Claire Street, Eau Claire, WI). In-person attendees can enjoy a pre-program social starting at 5:00 p.m.

**Idea Lounge on Issues Related to Unhoused**

**Residents:** DECI is hosting an info session for downtown businesses and property owners to meet the service providers and decision makers working on the issue of homelessness in our downtown. Learn more about what is being done to help address the unhoused issues, share your concerns, and get information on resources and assistance available for business and property owners when encountering problems. Free to attend. Light refreshments and snacks will be provided. Drop in at your convenience. It will be held on Thursday, March 16th, from 5:30 to 7PM, at CoLab at 131 S Barstow Street.

**Animal Licensing:** We are working on better understanding all aspects of our animal licensing and care in the City. Related to this effort, we are reminding residents that they need to license dogs and cats. According to our estimates, only about 21% of dogs and 11% of cats are licensed. Licensing revenue pays for our work that’s related to animals, including significant time spent by CSOs and payments to the Eau Claire County Humane Association for kenneling animals.

**CITY OF EAU CLAIRE** **If You Love Them...License Them**

[EauClaireWI.gov/PetLicense](http://EauClaireWI.gov/PetLicense)

- Can help reunite lost pets quicker.
- Helps you establish ownership if your pet is lost or stolen.
- Helps quickly establish vaccination status in the event of a dog or cat bite, potentially sparing the bite victim a series of painful and expensive rabies shots.
- Helps keep track of the number of pets in a home. Regulating the number in a home can help minimize nuisances to neighbors.



We believe that some people don't know they need to license their pets – especially with regard to cats. Therefore, we will be sending out a postcard to let people know that they need to license dogs and cats in the next week or so. They must also comply with other laws related to animals, including the number of animals allowable per household. Related to this second point, the ECPD would like to change the process through which residents can petition to have a larger number of pets. The proposed plan eliminates the waiver process, while increasing the number of pets allowed by right. It also allows residents until July 1st to register pets under the current law. The postcard is shown here, and information about pet licensing, as it's currently regulated, can be found here: [Pet Licensing | City of Eau Claire, Wisconsin \(eauclairewi.gov\)](https://www.eauclairewi.gov/pet-licensing)

**So Much News:** You Council and City staff are taking on many issues, and that means, there have been a lot of stories in the news. Eau Claire is fortunate to have news outlets that actively follow Eau Claire issues. It helps the public know what we're working on and the pros and cons of policy decisions. Below is just a sample of all news stories. We can be so proud of how our staff represent the City! It's no coincidence that Eau Claire staff often know the answer to the "You Ask" questions.

[Proposed Eau Claire ordinance aims to change city pet limits | Eye On Eau Claire | wgow.com](https://www.wgow.com/story/news/local/eau-claire-ordinance-aims-to-change-city-pet-limits/2023/03/10/eau-claire-ordinance-aims-to-change-city-pet-limits/)

[City of Eau Claire explores local vehicle registration fee \(weau.com\)](https://www.weau.com/news/local/eau-claire-explores-local-vehicle-registration-fee/)

[You Ask, We Answer: What determines the sequence of turn arrows on stoplights | You Ask, We Answer | wgow.com](https://www.wgow.com/story/news/local/eau-claire-what-determines-the-sequence-of-turn-arrows-on-stoptlights/2023/03/10/eau-claire-what-determines-the-sequence-of-turn-arrows-on-stoptlights/)

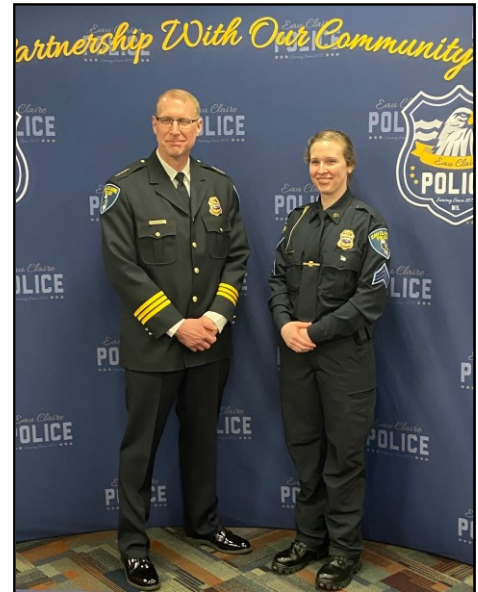
[City of Eau Claire files new petition to annex Orchard Hills land | Eye On Eau Claire | wgow.com](https://www.wgow.com/story/news/local/eau-claire-files-new-petition-to-annex-orchard-hills-land/2023/03/10/eau-claire-files-new-petition-to-annex-orchard-hills-land/)



**Eau Claire Police Department Promotions and Awards:** Thank you to the Council members who were able to join in for the recent awards and promotion ceremony at the Police Department. It was, as always, inspiring to hear about the courage, tenacity, and compassion of our officers and to hear more about the character and talent of a newly pinned Sergeant. Here's more information about all who were celebrated:

**PROMOTION OF OLIVIA ERL TO SERGEANT OF POLICE**

Olivia Erl grew up in Medford, WI and graduated from Medford Area Senior High School. Olivia holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and a Masters in Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Olivia joined our department in 2013 as a Community Service Officer and was hired full-time as a Patrol Officer in July, 2015. While most recently assigned as a Detective specializing in Financial Crimes, Olivia also served four years as a Patrol Officer working mostly the Evening Overlap shift. Olivia is also a member of the Crime Scene Unit, the Special Events team, and she is a State Certified DAAT Instructor as part of the Force Options Team.



**CHIEF'S GOLD COIN TO OFFICER ZACHARIA BECKER**

On June 6, 2021, while assigned to north district patrol duties, you were contacted by Grant Snider near Haymarket Landing. Snider was intoxicated, distraught and reported to you that his girlfriend, Nicole Drier, was missing. After ascertaining that the last place that Nicole had been seen was under the Haymarket Landing Bridge; you immediately began searching the area trying to locate Nicole. During your search you heard a splash in the water and rushed to the riverbank where you located Nicole unconscious in the river. Without hesitation you made the decision to enter the water to rescue Nicole. A decision that undoubtedly placed you in harm's way due to the depth of the water, river currents and the added weight of the equipment you carry. You were able to swim to Nicole and pull her back to shore where you summoned additional resources. You continued to aid Nicole until additional officers and EMS personal arrived to assist you in removing Nicole from the river.

Your quick response and selfless actions prevented a drowning and saved the life of a young woman. Your heroic actions are recognized by your co-workers, your community, and the nation as your story has been shared by numerous media outlets across the country. In a time where policing is being scrutinized daily, often as a result of negative stories about police officers, it is stories like yours that show the true nature and dedication of the sworn officers of the Eau Claire Police Department. Your actions exemplified the Eau Claire Police Department's core values. On behalf of the citizens of Eau Claire and the members of the Eau Claire Police Department, we commend you and thank you for your acts of bravery on June 6, 2021.



**LETTER OF COMMENDATIONS:**

***Officer Ryan Prock***

On November 3, 2021, you were made aware of a domestic incident that was occurring and officers had been sent to the scene. While the officers were responding, new information was learned that the male suspect had forced his way into the home, armed himself with a knife and had forcibly entered a room where the caller and her friend were located. Shortly after officer's arrival on scene they advised that shots had been fired and one suspect was down.

You responded to the scene and saw the victim being cared for by Officer O'Neill, but knew that he had actively been involved in the incident and took over that role for him. You held pressure on the bandages applied to the victim and attempted to comfort her. You stayed with the victim from the scene into the ambulance and to the hospital. You received information from her about what had happened and the history of the relationship with the suspect. Your calm demeanor and care assisted tremendously in this case.

Your actions on this date exemplify what the Eau Claire Police Department's core values stand for. On behalf of the victim and the community we commend you for your actions on November 3, 2021.



***Lieutenant Jesse Henning***

You are being recognized for your exemplary efforts in leading our organization through several major events in 2022. Your hard work, attention to detail, and your leadership has contributed to a safe and successful Blue Angels Airshow. In addition, you took a leadership role in both the funeral of Sheriff Ron Cramer and the remembrance ceremony for Robert Bolton. The Blue Angels Airshow always brings major challenges for law enforcement, but this year was even more challenging. With the added measure of security needs and additional requirements put in place by the Federal Aviation Administration, you were required to make decisions on how to deploy personnel and adjust traffic details to accommodate the additional demands, while still maintaining a safe and efficient event. Your ability to communicate with Airshow organizers and police personnel from numerous jurisdictions demonstrated your skills as a leader in this organization.

You have become the point person for direction and expertise as it relates to Law Enforcement funerals. Your leadership was very evident during the tragic loss of Sherriff Ron Cramer. You volunteered to assist Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office by taking the lead in organizing the law enforcement end of the funeral. The importance of getting things set perfectly and making sure things are done in a timely manner is no small task. The numerous tasks that needed to be completed days before the funeral, the night before the funeral, and the day of the funeral where completed flawlessly because of your professionalism and your leadership.

In October, you again took the lead in planning the 40-year remembrance ceremony of fallen Officer Robert Bolton. You organized the Honor Guard to include a 21-gun salute. The ceremony included the widow of Robert Bolton, Lynn BeBeau, as the keynote speaker which you were responsible for setting up. You took on the role of being the Master of Ceremony in addition to organizing this event. Finally, your forward thinking and ability to plan ahead was evident as you were able to change the venue from outside to an indoor setting. Your leadership made this a successful ceremony.

Jesse, these are three examples of how you demonstrate your commitment to the Eau Claire Police Department, your ability to be a strong communicator, your compassion in times of sorrow, and your professionalism. I want to thank you for your leadership and commend you for your efforts.

***Lieutenant Ryan Dahlgren:***

On April 24, 2022, Lily Peters was reported missing to the Chippewa Falls Police Department by her father. Officers within the Chippewa Falls area conducted a search for Lily the night of April 24th and into April 25th when her body was discovered near a walking trail by the Leinenkugel Lodge. The Chippewa Falls Police Department requested assistance from a large variety of Law Enforcement entities due to the complexity and sensitivity of the case investigation.

The Lily Peters investigation not only impacted the entire Chippewa Valley, but the nation. Many families made decisions to keep their children safe during the investigation by not allowing them

outside or at parks. People watched from all corners of the nation the progress of the investigation hoping for a quick resolution.

Ryan, your leadership position is critical. Your quick decision making and communication made a significant difference. Officers look for leadership and direction during time like these. In this case, as in many others, you performed flawlessly. We watched and were impressed with your interaction with the officers and supervisors from other agencies. Your willingness to step up and do what is needed to be done to be successful was nothing less than extraordinary. Thank you for your leadership, hard work, dedication, and commitment to the Eau Claire Police Department and the Lily Peters investigation. You represented our agency very well during a time of uncertainty.

***Officer Wayne Bjorkman***

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Wayne, you played a critical role in this investigation. You worked closely with the local investigator and interviewed several people, including the suspect. It is because of your hard work, dedication, and interviewing skills that you were able to get a confession. The resolution to the case impacted many. Families are now able to begin the healing process of this tragic loss. You make a difference every day as an investigator. This case is just another example of your impeccable work. Thank you for everything you have done. You represented the Eau Claire Police Department very well!

***Telecommunicator Benny Williams***

On November 3rd, 2021, you received a 911 hang up call. You promptly called the number back and a female answered, was whispering, and indicated she needed help. Your performance on this call and the subsequent radio traffic was a model of how a dispatcher should handle a critical incident, as you acted with high levels professionalism, expertise, and poise.

Benny, you were an incredible guide to not only the caller, but also to our officers. You were both the call taker and dispatcher on this call, which required an intense amount of multitasking. You handled it flawlessly, taking the information from the caller and relaying to the officers what was going on as soon as it was happening. You stayed on the phone with the caller and kept her calm, keeping her updated when officers arrived.



The information you relayed to the officers, including the suspect’s history of violence and the fact that he had a knife, proved valuable to prepare our officers as they arrived on scene. Shortly after they were on scene you advised them immediately when the female started screaming so they understood the urgency of the situation. Your command of the radio after the “shots fired” transmission was also professional, calm, and extremely helpful to everyone involved. You truly were the calm voice that everyone needed that day. You also handled several requests for assistance from officers with ease and promptness in the midst of everything happening.

Your command of the phone call and radio during this incident was admirable. How you handled this chaotic situation was also impressive and you deserve to be recognized for your role. Even though there was a tragic aspect to this case, you played a vital role in saving this victim’s life.

Your actions exemplified the Eau Claire Police Department’s core values. On behalf of the victim, community member of Eau Claire, and the members of the Eau Claire Police Department we commend you and thank you for your exemplary performance on November 3, 2021.

***Telecommunicator Madisen Scharlau***

On March 7, 2021, you answered a 911 call from a female who indicated her husband collapsed and was barely breathing. From the very start of this call, you were in control of a very frantic caller, and provided remarkable guidance to the caller during her time of need. You gave her very clear instructions throughout the call and provided her with expectations so she knew exactly what was going on.

Madisen, you were an incredible guide to the caller. The caller initially refused to give CPR saying she couldn’t until you advised her that you could help her. She then became agreeable and she became very focused on providing lifesaving aid to her husband. You continually encouraged her and kept her focused on what she needed to be doing administering CPR effectively. You confirmed she was continuing to do compressions until the medics arrived by her side. Your detailed instructions had her focus on compressions, you continually counted with her and then instructed her to open the door when it was most appropriate.



The kindness and professionalism you displayed to the caller was admirable. This call is a primary example of how important your job is. On January 24th, 2022, our office received a letter from Mrs.

Wendy Jessen, the caller. She stated, "I would also like to say thank you to the 911 operator who talked me through doing CPR, when I never in my wildest imagination thought I could or would, and did, with her help. I feel extremely emotional thinking about this part of the whole event, because had she not done her job so perfectly, I don't know what the outcome may have been." In her Christmas letter to her family, she indicated that the chances from surviving a major heart event her husband suffered were small. Not many people can say they have had such a tremendous impact on someone's life, but you can. You made a difference and you helped him survive a significant medical emergency. You deserve recognition for your exemplary job performance on this call, as this is truly remarkable.

Thank you for your dedication and service to the Eau Claire Police Department and the citizens of our community.

### **Council Calendar** (With Tentative Work Session Dates)

- Monday, March 27th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
  - Public Hearing on Proposed Local Vehicle Registration Fee
  - Public Hearing on Stewart Hauge Annexation
- Tuesday, March 28th: Council Meeting
  - Council action on Local Vehicle Registration Fee
  - Council action on Stewart Hauge Annexation
  - 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
- 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:**

- Wednesday, March 15th: Housing Needs Assessment Open House in Eau Claire
- Thursday, March 16th: Idea Lounge - Unhoused Issues Info and Idea Exchange
- 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

- Thursday, April 6th: University Walk Through
- 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 **Captain Matthew Gunderson** out of Station #9!

- Hire Date: Hired with the Eau Claire Fire Department in November of 2004, feels like yesterday, time flies when you’re having fun!
- Hometown: I was born and raised in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Family has kept me rooted to this area and I am now proudly protecting the community I have always called home.
- Your Training: I obtained my Associate degree in Fire Science through Fox Valley Technical College and soon after obtained my paramedic certification through the Chippewa Valley Technical College. In this line of work, training and education never end and I am currently nearing the end of my Bachelors degree in Fire Administration.
- Favorite Part of Job: In our field, we are away from home 24 hours a day for a third of the year, multiply this by a 30-year career and the firehouse becomes a home away from home and coworkers become a second family of many brothers and sisters. Our line of work can be very stressful and take a toll on our mental wellbeing, but forming strong relationships with coworkers allows us to help each other navigate the tough times. No two days are the same, and we often find ourselves trouble shooting unique situations through teamwork. It is an honor and very rewarding to protect the citizens of the community I have sworn to protect. Now for the short answer to the question what I like about my job? The relationships formed, the opportunity to mitigate emergencies through teamwork and the honor to have been chosen to protect the Eau Claire community.
- Favorite Activities Off Duty: Off duty, I can be found enjoying time with my wife, son and daughter either on the waters of Lake Wissota or the woods near Lake Holcombe. We live a fast-paced life with little down time but once summer rolls around there are many relaxing and memory making days at the lake soaking up the sun with family and friends.

