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From the Manager

Thank you to Scott Allen: After five years as Community Development Director, Scott will be taking on the new challenge of leading the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC) as its incoming Executive Director beginning May 15th. We are really excited for Scott, and we are also excited for the region that we get such a smart, committed, and principled leader to tackle our shared challenges. We look forward to working with Scott on regional projects, and he has promised to meet us for lunch at Covizza in Banbury!

Scott will be working with longtime Executive Director Lynn Nelson until her departure at the end of June. The Executive Director is responsible for the 14-member staff of WCWRPC and their work with: regional economic development grants and programs, hazard mitigation planning, staffing for the Regional Rural Transportation Program and the Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), implementation of Safe Routes to School programming, and comprehensive planning technical assistance to the seven-county region.

While at the City of Eau Claire, Scott assisted in many projects and programs, including:

- Co-leading the Chippewa Valley Regional Housing Taskforce;
- Coordinating the launch of Wintermission and Eau Claire’s designation as a ‘Winter City Vanguard’;
- Working with Councilmembers Felton and Werthmann to create and guide the Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC);
- Steering the five-year review of the 2015 Comprehensive Plan;
- Coordinating the Landlord Support Program and Ready-To-Rent certification pilot programs; and
- Serving as lead Planning staff for several transformational projects: Prairie Heights Residences, The Current/The Eddy, Sojourner House expansion, Costco, Country Jam, Sonnentag Centre/County Materials Complex, Sky Park Industrial Center sunsetting of restrictive covenants, L.E. Phillips Senior Center



expansion, Transit Transfer Center, Block 7 redevelopment, Railroad Lot redevelopment (Andante), Evolve online permitting and plan review system, and the Regional Housing Study.

As you can see from this list, Scott has undertaken a huge number of efforts that have reshaped Eau Claire into a stronger city. He has done all of that, while consistently being kind, supportive of his employees, and responsive to co-workers, residents, and elected officials. I love to hear Scott say, in response to questions from all different types of people and perspectives, a sincere response of “That’s a good question.” It’s an expression of his open mindedness, supportive personality, and intellectual curiosity. On top of all of that, he is also fun and funny. We’ll miss you, Scott, and we are glad you are not going far!



American Phoenix Updates: Representatives from the City (City Manager’s Office, City Attorney, Economic Development) and the Health Department visited American Phoenix, Inc. (API) for a tour and an informational discussion on Thursday, April 13th. American Phoenix managers talked about what they are doing to tackle the odor and noise complaints, and they shared this attached description of their history, steps taken to date, and steps planned. We discussed organizing a neighborhood meeting in May at which American Phoenix and residents can meet and talk. API has been working with a consultant that specializes in air-quality monitoring as well as the Wisconsin DNR to formulate a strategy. They are planning to create an online survey that will allow constituents to submit records of where and when there are noise or odor issues. The goal of this survey is to:

- Provide a method to direct feedback straight to API;
- Establish patterns of when odor or noise are noticeable (e.g. wind speed, wind direction, dew points, time of day); and
- Allow API to use those patterns to prioritize projects and make the possible improvements.

API indicated that they would be willing/able to communicate updates and findings from complaints on a regular basis to the City, County, and neighborhoods.

API staff did say that they hope to manage expectations, as this is a 24-hour manufacturing facility that has been located in this part of Eau Claire for many years. There will be odor and noise on some days, even with data-informed mitigation efforts.

City and Health Department staff agreed to share information with the community/neighborhood on the new online survey tool and direct complaints and questions received to API so they are made aware of any concerns. We also agreed to help facilitate the neighborhood meeting(s) between API and residents. The Health Department will also send API the signed petition that was received. We are grateful for a productive meeting and hopeful that we can problem solve together as a community.

More Flooding News: Last (we hope!) update for this spring from Cory Tietz... “As expected, the Chippewa and Eau Claire rivers within the City of Eau Claire have started to recede, dropping below flood stage today, Sunday, April 16th. Although precipitation is in the forecast almost every day over the next seven days, the National Weather Service expects river levels will continue to recede throughout the week. Although this will expose various public spaces currently inundated with water, they will not be officially opened for public use until City staff have an opportunity to clean and inspect these areas. As a reminder, all river activities, such as fishing, wading, swimming, tubing, and boating, are *still considered dangerous* and should be avoided. Future flooding updates will only be provided if there is a change in the forecast... In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me directly.” Operations Coordinator, Community Services Department, (715) 839-1875, cory.tietz@eauclairewi.gov

For future reference, here's some information about our flood plains and actions people should be aware of if they live near a river or another area prone to flooding:

- Our flood plain:
<https://www.eauclairewi.gov/government/our-divisions/engineering/development-technical-services/flood-plain-river-information>
- Actions to take:
<https://www.eauclairewi.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/299/635107952597830000>
- County's Emergency Management page on flooding:
<https://www.eauclairecounty.gov/our-government/departments-and-facilities/department-directory/planning-and-development/emergency-management-division/local-hazards/flooding>

Housing Survey: Work continues on the Regional Housing Study. An online survey related to the study is now open! The survey, which will close on Wednesday, April 26th, will help the project team better understand local perspectives on housing-related issues. The survey should take about five minutes to complete, and the more responses received, the better! If you are willing, please share this website with friends, family, coworkers, and other people you know in order to help increase the number of responses.

<https://www.eauclaireregionalhousing.org/> Thank you for contributing some of your valuable time to the Eau Claire Regional Housing Study.

A Report from NCUR: Here's an update from our intrepid ICMA Fellow, Danya Morman, who sat in on some of the NCUR conferences. Danya was most recently studying math and political science at UWEC, so they know how to appreciate research and how it can impact local communities...



“The National Conference of Undergraduate Research (NCUR) was held April 13-15th at UWEC. I got the opportunity to volunteer and attend the conference to see what students were working on and to see if there was anything relating to municipal government or policy making. Several students from UWEC worked on a project focusing on the Eau Claire Downtown Farmers Market (ECDFM) and the Market Match Program which incentivizes Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households to shop at the market. They conducted a survey of SNAP users at the ECDFM to analyze what types of people were using the Market Match Program, the limitations to the program, and what people liked about the program. They found that the factors limiting people from using the program at the ECDFM were the hours of operation, SNAP benefits running out, and the limit on what they can purchase at the farmers market (not a one stop shop for all their groceries). Overall, the students I spoke to working on this project were excited about the future direction of the project and utilizing their survey results to better the program.

Other research posters I learned about included the impact of Covid-19 and other natural disasters on the rental market and rental property owners, the history of EDI and EDI policies in Wisconsin, and education on nicotine addiction for non-school staff and adults. I’m pictured above being very intrigued listening to the research on the Farmers Market.”

Prescription Drug Take Back Event: The National Prescription Drug Take-Back event, described in this flyer, is hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and is coordinated locally by the Eau Claire County Sheriff’s Office, Altoona Police Department, Marshfield Clinic Health System, Village of Fall Creek Police Department, Eau Claire City-County Health Department, and the Eau Claire Health Alliance- Substance Misuse Action Team.

Green Waste Facility Now Open: The Green Waste Facility located at 5710 Jeffers Road opened for the season on Saturday, April 15th. The facility will be open Mondays and Wednesdays from 10AM-6PM, and on Saturdays from 8AM-3PM. Due to street reconstruction on Jeffers Road in April through August 2023, the Green Waste Facility can only be accessed from the north. Please follow posted detour signs to access the site. The Green Waste Facility on Jeffers Road provides an environmentally-friendly solution for residents to dispose of brush, grass clippings, and leaves. New this year, compost created at the Green Waste Facility will be



National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

Saturday, April 22
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Have expired or unwanted medications?
Want to dispose of them safely and easily?

Bring your medications to a drop-off location!

YOU CAN BRING:

- All prescriptions and over-the-counter medications
- Ointments
- Liquids
- Patches
- Non-aerosol sprays
- Inhalers
- Creams
- Vials
- Pet medications

All liquids, creams, and sprays must be in original container

NOT ACCEPTED:

- Needles, sharps, lancets, or EpiPens

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:

Marshfield Medical Center- Eau Claire
2116 Craig Road
Medical Offices, Door B
(curbside service - no need to get out of your car!)

Altoona Emergency Services
1904 Spooner Avenue

Fall Creek Village Hall
122 E. Lincoln Avenue

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Want more information? Visit us:
www.GetInvolvedASAP.org

available for purchase. Residents should bring their own buckets/containers when purchasing compost.

Services	2023 Fees
Unlimited Season Pass*	\$45.00
per 30-gallon biodegradable paper bag	\$2.00
6-foot pick-up truck bed	\$15.00
8-foot pick-up truck bed	\$20.00
8' x 12' trailer or smaller	\$35.00
per yard on all trailers over 8'x12'	\$7.00
Compost 5-gallon bucket	\$1.00
Compost per cubic yard	\$40.00

*Unlimited season passes available to residents; commercial operations are not Permitted.

At the facility, credit card or checks are accepted (no cash). Season passes are available for purchase at the site during regular operating hours or for purchase at 910 Forest Street, Monday-Friday, 7:30AM-4PM. For further details, please visit www.eauclairewi.gov/brush.

Media Inquiries: Steve Plaza, Parks, Forestry, and Cemetery Manager, phone: 715-839-5039

Bingo Callers: While I was attending my son’s school’s Bingo night, I got to see one of our awesome officers in action: Delong School Resource Officer Mike Cullen and Delong Principal Michele Wiberg were asked to be “honorary” bingo callers for Lakeshore Elementary School. It was an opportunity for the kids to become familiar and meet their soon-to-be principal and SRO.



City Council Vacancy Advertisement: The City has distributed notices that the Eau Claire City Council is accepting letters of interest from residents of Eau Claire Aldermanic District 1 to fill the vacant District 1 Council seat. Maps of the City’s Aldermanic Districts can be found here

<https://www.eauclairewi.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/37487/637939980097530000>.

The appointment will run through April 16th, 2024. Annual compensation for the position is \$3,000 (\$250 per month) plus mileage and phone reimbursement. Council legislative sessions are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 4PM Public hearings are held the preceding Monday at 7PM. The successful candidate will also be expected to attend meetings of any board, committee or commission they may be appointed to. Interested residents must submit a letter of interest (resume optional) to the City Clerk containing the following information:

Applicant’s name and address

- Telephone number and / or other method of contact (ex. email address)
- Brief statement (approximately one page) indicating:
 - Interest in serving as the Aldermanic District 1 City Council Member

- That the applicant meets the minimum requirements for being appointed to the position (applicable age, residency in District 1, voting qualification and citizenship requirements)
- What contribution or perspective they can bring to the City Council
- What other city or civic committee(s) they have served on, or other experience related to the position, if any
- Vision to support or enhance the city's vision, mission, and strategic plan (<https://www.eauclairewi.gov/our-city/vision-mission-values>)

Letters must be received in the City Clerk's office by 5PM on Thursday, May 4th. Eligible applicants will be invited to an interview with Council on May 10th or 11th, and asked to make a brief presentation at the City Council meeting on Monday, May 22nd, at 7PM. The Council will consider the appointment at their Legislative Session on Tuesday, May 23rd, at 4PM. Letters can be submitted to the Eau Claire City Clerk in-person, via U.S. Postal Service or via e-mail.

Address: Eau Claire City Clerk
 203 S. Farwell St.
 Eau Claire, WI. 54701 Phone: 715-839-4912
 Email Address: Nicholas.Koerner@EauClaireWI.gov /

Additional information (including the Strategic Plan, Budget, etc.) may be found on the City of Eau Claire's website at www.EauClaireWI.gov. Call or email the City Clerk with questions.

Council Calendar (With Tentative Work Session Dates)

- Tuesday, April 18th: Organizational Meeting
- Monday, April 24th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
 - ARPA Phase II Allocation Public Discussion
 - Public Discussion on Fireworks Location
 - President Berge's first regular meeting
- Tuesday, April 25th: Council Meeting
 - Possible Council action on ARPA Phase 2
 - Possible Council action on Fireworks Location
- ❖ *Monday, May 1st: Council receives Proposed 2024-2028 CIP Budget*
- Monday, May 8th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
- Tuesday, May 9th: Council Meeting
 - 2024-2028 CIP Budget Work Session #1
- ❖ *Thursday, May 18th: Transit Commission reviews and recommends Transit's CIP*
- Monday, May 22nd: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
- Tuesday, May 23rd: Council Meeting
 - 2024-2028 CIP Budget Work Session #2
- ❖ *May 25th - Waterways & Parks Commission reviews and recommends Parks CIP*
- ❖ *June 6th: Plan Commission reviews and recommends CIP*
- 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
- Monday, June 19th: Joint Plan Commission and City Council Meeting for Zoning Overhaul Kickoff
- Monday, June 26th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
- Tuesday, June 27th: Council Meeting
 - 2024 Operating Budget Work Session 1: Priorities and Parameters
- Monday, July 10th: Regular Council public Hearing/Discussion Night
- Tuesday, July 11th: Council Meeting
- Monday, July 24th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
- Tuesday, July 25th: Council Meeting
- Monday, August 14th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
- Tuesday, August 15th: Council Meeting
- Monday, August 28th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
- Tuesday, August 29th: Council Meeting
- Monday, September 11th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
- Tuesday, September 12th: Council Meeting
- Monday, September 25th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
- Tuesday, September 26th: Council Meeting
- ❖ *September 29th – City Council receives 2024 Proposed Operating Budget*
- Monday, October 9th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
 - Public Hearing #1 on 2024 Proposed Operating Budget
- Tuesday, October 10th: Council Meeting
 - City Council Operating Budget Work Session #2 (Department Directors)
- Monday, October 23rd: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
- Tuesday, October 24th: Council Meeting
 - City Council Operating Budget Work Session #3 – Amendment Discussion
- ❖ *November 3rd – City Council Budget Amendments Due*
- Monday, November 13th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
 - Public Hearing #2 on 2024 Proposed Operating Budget
- Tuesday, November 14th: Council Meeting
 - City Council action on 2024 Proposed Operating Budget and levy

Additional Dates:

- Monday April 17th: Ending Homelessness Listening Session for Landlords
- Wednesday, April 19th: Ending Homelessness Listening Session for Businesses
- Wednesday, April 19th: UW-Business Community Breakfast
- Friday, April 21st: Eggs and Issues State of Altoona
- Friday, April 28th: Cake for Chris Bell
- 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 recent hire **Jake Nelson!**

Here's some more information about Jake...

- Hire date: "3/27/23"
- Home town: "I am from Stoughton WI, I came to Eau Claire because my sister Samantha attends UWEC. My family also has land west of Minocqua in Park Falls, where my mother and father plan to build a home once they retire, so it is nice that I will be able to stay close to my family, which is important to me. I go four-wheeling all over northern Wisconsin, so it is cool being close to that as well."
- Training: "I received my fire and paramedic training at Madison Area Technical College."
- Best part about job: "I like the job because you never know what you will see and what will happen when you arrive on scene. You meet many different people, and it is cool hearing their stories. My mother and father were both full-time Firefighter/Paramedics, so being able to follow in their footsteps like I wanted to when I was a kid is very special for me."
- Favorite activities outside of work: "Off duty I enjoy watching baseball and 4-wheeling."





Background information

- Summer of 1992
 - Founder Alex Nazarenko and Clem Nelson contacted Bill Cigan and Jack Kaiser
 - Proposal was to continue mixing operations
 - We are 31 years old this summer
 - Leadership team has remained unchanged in Golden Valley
 - Alex Nazarenko – President
 - Greg Lewis – COO
 - Keith Nelson (Clem’s son) – Purchasing manager
- Custom rubber mixer
 - Raw materials are mixed into non-finished rubber
 - Polymers, carbon blacks, oils and chemicals
 - Customers turn our rubber into finished products
 - Industries served
 - Passenger tires, agricultural tracks, agricultural tires, truck tire retreading, mining belting
 - Ship about 150M lbs. per year
 - Mix seven days/week, 24 hours per day
- Lease space from Banbury Place owned by Jack Kaiser
 - API leases 1,051,797 sq. ft.
 - 55% of total Banbury Place sq. footage
- Heavy investing back into plant operations
 - Last five years - >\$11M of capital improvements
 - Mostly mixing equipment
- Improvements that have impacted local services and the community
 - Reduced trucking traffic congestion that eliminated police calls
 - Improved look on Galloway street
 - Remodeled west end of building
 - Re-directed all employees off of Galloway Street sidewalk
 - Keep the sidewalk clean
 - Donated equipment to highlight the industrial look
- Important customer for local businesses
 - Over 50 companies or local distributors
 - Last year’s expenditures approximately \$3M
- Charitable involvement in the community
 - Partnership with Longfellow Elementary through the ECASD
 - Contributed \$86,000 over the last five years
 - Other contributions
 - Library capital project
 - Bolton Refuge House
 - Feed My People
 - Hope Gospel
 - Community Table



Our people

- We are a second chance employer
 - We hire people that most companies won't take a chance on
 - We estimate that 33% have a criminal record, mostly felonies
 - Drugs, alcohol, theft, assault
 - Many are still working their way back into society
 - Dependency care
 - Court cases
 - Homelessness
 - We give these people a job where no one else will
 - They are good people who want to be normal
 - They make bad choices
 - We try to help them make better ones
 - How do they find us
 - Approximately 75% come through referrals
 - Halfway houses, jails, prisons
 - Advertising
 - Radio, FB, Indeed
- Employment
 - We employ 292 people
 - 194 Production
 - 2022 payroll was \$18.2M
 - Pay levels for production employees
 - Operator 1 - \$20.00 Average wage - \$20.36
 - Operator 2 - \$20.80 Average wage - \$22.10
 - Operator 3 - \$21.45 Average wage – \$23.71
 - Operator 4 - \$23.64 Average wage - \$26.13
 - \$1.50 afternoon and night shift premium
 - Full benefit package
 - Health Insurance
 - Dental Insurance
 - Vision Insurance
 - Paid Life & Disability Insurance
 - 401k Savings Plan with Company Match
 - Nine Paid Holidays
 - Employee Assistance Program
 - Company Paid Uniforms & Shower Time
 - Work Shoes & Safety Glasses Reimbursement
 - Two Personal Days Annually



Fire department calls

- A fire is never good and a fire call is never good!
 - Dangerous, unsafe, cost money, public relations disaster
 - Any call is a bad situation
 - Five calls where fire department had to enter the building in the last five years
 - Three since 12.6.22
- Additional detail
 - One fire with flames the last five years
 - Building is completely sprinkled - Never had more than two sprinkler heads go off
 - Fire department conducts inspections at least twice per year
 - Collaborative relationship with department
 - Reimburse the fire department for damaged equipment from carbon black

WDNR & OSHA

- There is no issues with the WDNR
 - We have always been in compliance with air permits and regulations
 - Their interpretation of reporting calculations and plant operations led to a Notice of Violation (NOV) in November of 2021
 - Per communication last week, the NOV will be closed in one month
- There are no issues with OSHA
 - All requirements met and no pending citations or issue

Odors and noise

- Naturally odoriferous process
 - Even at low detection levels, smell can be offensive
 - Nature of our business
 - We can continue to make improvements but we can't eliminate it
- We have made improvements in the last five years
 - Roof top stack heights have been increased
 - Increased the velocity of air flow - CFM increases
 - Closing of street side doors and windows when we can
 - Elimination of raw materials known to cause stronger odors
- Obvious that we have a disconnect between what the city and county receives as feedback and what we receive
 - Odor Control plan



- Odor complaint log – 11 complaints in the last five years
- Noise complaints
 - Two in the last five years
- City and county are receiving many more than that

The beginnings of our plan going forward

- Provide a much more detailed, explanative Odor Control Plan
 - WDNR has volunteered to advise us on making a better plan
 - Communicate with more detail the improvements, the projects and current feedback
 - Make this available on our Facebook page or potentially our website
- Provide a method to direct feedback straight to us
 - Online survey
 - Most likely linked to our website or Facebook page
 - Establish patterns
 - Wind speed, wind direction, dew points, time of day
 - Use those patterns to prioritize projects and make the possible improvements
 - We would advise WDNR, City and County to direct complaints to the survey
- Communicate status with City and County officials
 - Fact sheets that can be forwarded onto City Council members and County Supervisors
 - Potentially passed on to constituents
 - Frequency to be determined