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From the Manager

ECPD Honor Guard Support of Funeral: The Police Department recently supported the funeral held on Saturday, April 15th:

- Officer Emily Breidenbach – Chetek Police Department
- Officer Hunter Scheel – Cameron Police Department
- End of Watch, April 8, 2023

Members of the Eau Claire Police Department’s Honor Guard were in constant communication with the Wisconsin Honor Guard Association and were tasked with several duties. ECPD Honor Guard members were present every time the bodies were moved from one destination to the next: funeral home to autopsy, funeral home to school for visitation, school back to funeral home, and funeral home to final resting place in Minong. It is common procedure to have a police officer with the deceased until they are finally laid to rest.

On the day of the visitation, ECPD Honor guard stood casket watch and did the 21-gun salute. They also took a large role in the final burial of Officer Hunter Scheel in Minong, WI the following Monday. We had a good presence at the visitation/funeral on Saturday, April 15th. Chief Rokus, Deputy Chief Hoyord, and Deputy Chief Thomas represented the Chief’s staff. Representation from the ECPD totaled 25 ECPD officers. An estimated 3,000 law enforcement officers from all over the country attended the funeral at Cameron High School. Above is a photo of the procession from



Cameron to Chetek. Many members of the public stood on side of the road to pay their respects as the hearse and hundreds of squad cars passed by. There are a lot of moving parts to an officer funeral, and we are proud of the role that our ECPD played in supporting this important event.

Amazing Eau Claire Cleanup: We woke up on Saturday to snow cover! Nevertheless, between 1,500 and 2,000 volunteers turned out to clean up public spaces throughout the city. Because this event includes work in numerous parks and along recreational trails near the Eau Claire and Chippewa Rivers, City staff needed to relocate some work crews so that they maintained a safe distance from river banks and inundated areas.



When I saw organizer extraordinaire, Julie Booth, on Saturday morning, she told me a bit about the event's history. She said that originally, the City had a meal for volunteers after the cleanup. However, the event grew so big that feeding all those people was a challenge. And, many companies, organizations, and service clubs have turned this day into a day of service and community building. Many of them hold their own picnics across the city. I got to talk to a lot of volunteers. Here are two groups of young people, both from UWEC. Down by Carson, the Eclipse Literacy Club cleaned around Half Moon. Up on Clairemont, the Student Office of Sustainability Group had a less picturesque view, but were nevertheless working very hard!

No Mow May: Although the weather suggests otherwise, May is now right around the corner. Information about No Mow May can be found on our City's webpage ([No Mow May | City of Eau Claire, Wisconsin \(eauclairewi.gov\)](https://eauclairewi.gov)). Additional community resources can be found here: <https://jonahjustice.org/no-mow-may/> This site lists quite a few events and resources, including activities all year long. The Library is doing a community book club on [Nature's Best Hope](#) with the

author coming later this year in October. Yard signs were available at the No Mow table today at Earth Day on April 20th and will also be available at the May 6th and 13th Farmers Markets.

Thank you to Cemetery and Parks Crews: We received a lovely note from a constituent thanking our staff for their work in the cemeteries. “Your staff did a wonderful job last Monday clearing a path in the snow for our family and having a table setup for her urn for us to have our final goodbyes. It was all ready when we showed up early and when we did a drive by a little later could see our Mom’s urn had been buried. The weather was tricky and yet did not keep us from doing what was needed to be done. It brings us peace knowing that the cemetery caregivers consistently provide five-star service every time we have come for a visit by the looks of the well-manicured lawns (when there is no snow). Thank you very much to you and your staff!”

Ongoing Street Work: Streets Manager Aaron Nicholson provided another update on his division’s ongoing street repair efforts. “With the marathon coming up this weekend, we have been all-hands-on deck to try to repair the marathon route so as to hopefully prevent any injury due to uneven roads. We also have nine people on night shift sweeping which will be coming to an end this week. With that, once we have all of our people back on day shift, my intentions are to send multiple crews out daily and go through the entire city, street by street, to try and put a final repair on the streets for the summer months. I apologize if it sounds like



excuses, but I can assure you we are trying very hard to balance priorities and also to complete as much work as quickly as possible as well. For larger repairs, we also have our spray patch machine out, but at this time it is also focused on the marathon route. Lastly, we will be testing out a different spray patch machine probably sometime in May. With this demo, our intentions are to have the machine as well as our current spray patch machine out getting as much of that work done as possible. My goal is that in the next couple weeks and by Memorial Day, all residents will start to see significant improvements in the conditions of the roads. As always, feel free to reach out and I will do my best to give all the knowledge I can obtain (email: Aaron at Aaron.Nicholson@EauClaireWi.Gov)

Flooding Update: Though we had hoped for the flooding to be over last week, the continued precipitation last week led to a second crest on Saturday. City staff closely monitored the situation. They closed First Avenue from Water Street to Broadway along Owen Park due to rising river levels. Additionally, a storm manhole cover came off on Gray Street west of Graham Avenue near the small parking deck. Although the lower lot was posted as closed, there were four vehicles parked in this section of the lot, becoming surrounded by water. Per request, the Eau Claire Police Department tried to locate the owners but were unsuccessful. As a safety precaution, the City had A to Z Towing come move the cars to higher ground, resulting in no damage to vehicles. Moreover, city crews were able to reinstall the cover, seal it, and hold it down with a concrete block to prevent it from coming off again. Crews also pumped what water we could, but there was still a significant amount of

infiltration coming into the system. Staff also worked with organizers of two events Saturday to make sure they could proceed safely. That included the Jeanne Richie Memorial Puddle Jump 5K Run/Walk event with 500-700 participants and the Amazing Eau Claire Cleanup. A huge thank you to our staff who managed this and kept everyone safe!

Council Calendar (With Tentative Work Session Dates)

- Monday, April 24th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
 - ARPA Phase II First Allocation Public Discussion
- Tuesday, April 25th: Council Meeting
 - Possible Council action on ARPA Phase II First Allocation
 - Possible Council action on Fireworks
- ❖ *Monday, May 1st: Council receives Proposed 2024-2028 CIP Budget*
- Monday, May 8th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
 - ARPA Phase II Second Allocation Public Discussion
- Tuesday, May 9th: Council Meeting
 - 2024-2028 CIP Budget Work Session #1
 - Possible Council Action on ARPA Phase II Second Allocation
- ❖ *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
- Tuesday, September 5th: Joint Plan Commission and City Council Meeting for Zoning Overhaul Discussion
- 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*
- Tuesday, November 1st: Joint Plan Commission and City Council Meeting for Zoning Overhaul Discussion
- 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
- Tuesday, December 18th: Joint Plan Commission and City Council Meeting for Zoning Overhaul Discussion

Additional Dates:

- Saturday-Sunday, April 29th-30th: Eau Claire Marathon
- Monday, June 19th: Juneteenth Celebration
- 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 **Lieutenant Brian Dorn** out of Station 2!

Here’s some more information about **Brian...**

- Hire date: “June 2011”
- Home town: “I lived in Winona, MN, until I was eight years old. I moved to Eau Claire when my dad started a new job here. I lived in Eau Claire until I graduated from CVTC in 2007. I was then hired in Red Wing, MN and worked for the Red Wing Fire Dept for about 3 1/2 years. I have an uncle that also works



for ECFD. I was not eligible for employment here until the city of Eau Claire changed a nepotism policy that prevented family from working together. After the policy changed I immediately applied and was able to come back home to Eau Claire.”

- Training: “I received my FireMedic degree from CVTC.”
- Best part about job: “I enjoy the variety of work, training and knowledge that is required every day. This career also comes with a second family that I spend 1/3 of my life with. These firefighters hold each other to the Eau Claire Fire Department's high expectations and show professionalism every day when training and responding to calls. But they also know how to have fun. We are front seat witnesses to tragic events in peoples’ lives. Although this can be a burden, it is also rewarding to be able to help ease the pain people experience on some of their worst days. It's hard to describe why, but it's the greatest job in the world!”
- Favorite activities outside of work: “Off duty I spend my time with my wife and our five children. We love camping, swimming, boating, camp fires, road trips and hanging out with our extended families and friends.”