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**From the Manager**

**Q&A on Triaging Tree Removal:** Here's an example of a question and answer that came through the City Manager's Office in the past week...

**Question:** "My Silver Maple is damaged and its removal has been requested. Do we know when it will get taken out?"

**Response:** (from Forestry Supervisor Matthew Staudenmaier)

"A tree may be in the queue for removal, but we may not know when exactly it will be removed. We are just finishing up our spring planting and are moving into stump grinding. We currently have over 450 stumps to grind, dig out, and then refill with top soil. For many of those removals, new trees to be planted in their place in the coming seasons.

When trees like the Silver Maple in question are on the boulevard with no imminent threat to the public, they tend to be lower priority on the removal list. Standing dead trees, particularly Ash trees that have succumbed to Emerald Ash Borer, tend to be a higher priority due to their propensity to fail under ordinary conditions. A Silver Maple that has a bit of a heave and some broken branches does not rise to a high level of threat -- especially when there is no direct target beneath its fall zone. The criteria we use to assess the risk are: having the potential for failure, having a target present, and having a high likelihood of impact with the target. There are trees that look way worse than they actually



are, and the opposite can certainly be true, too. We therefore try to be mindful while also being consistent and responsive with removal requests.”

The Forestry Crew is pictured here receiving a well-deserved proclamation!

**Housing Survey:** The Health Department has completed its first five-year cycle of the City of Eau Claire Neighborhood Survey, also called the Residential Environmental Quality Assessment (REQA) survey. This survey was developed to provide a method of rapidly assessing the environmental quality of a given neighborhood. The survey method uses objective criteria to obtain a numerical index that will indicate the general level of the residential environment. This year, the Health Department will continue by re-surveying the Northeast part of the City of Eau Claire. This includes areas around the airport, North Riverfront and North Hill neighborhoods. This work is funded by CDBG.

**More Thank You's to Street Crews:** Council Member Werthmann stopped to give this shout-out to a crew filling potholes on Farwell Street. He said: “I had received quite a number of neighborhood complaints about that stretch, going down the hill in the Third Ward. I just had a chance to chat with him and say thank you to the crew.... A lot of people will be very happy as they do their work across the community!”



**Hmong Chamber of Commerce Open House:**

All are invited as follows... “We are excited to extend a warm invitation to our open house, celebrating the grand opening of our new Eau Claire satellite office! Join us as we showcase our new space and share our passion for providing exceptional services to the community. During the event, you'll have the chance to meet Lar Kong Xiong, our dedicated staff for Eau Claire and Western Wisconsin, learn about our services, and enjoy some light refreshments. We can't wait to share this special moment with you and look forward to seeing you there!”

Event details:

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

3 PM - 6 PM CT

101 N. Farwell St, STE 101

\*\*\*Inside the Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce suite\*\*\*

**World Relief:** We have been working to evaluate the feasibility of increasing the City's capacity to host immigrants and refugees with the aim of fostering a more diverse and multi-cultural community and addressing employee shortages. As part of our collaboration with the World Relief Organization in Appleton, we have been facilitating their communication with all relevant stakeholders in Eau Claire. World Relief Headquarters recently announced Eau Claire as a potential new resettlement site. While final approval is expected in late summer or early fall, World Relief may begin hiring and

securing office space during the summer. Tami McLaughlin, Director of World Relief in Appleton, stated, "We have decided to propose Eau Claire as our recommendation for a new resettlement site. Everyone we had a conversation with was supportive, and the work that Eau Claire has already done to welcome refugees and immigrants has been impressive. It would be an honor to open an office in Eau Claire." We will share an update on the topic at next week's City Council meeting.

**PERM Program:** The City of Eau Claire, in collaboration with CVTC and the EDC, are hosting a free webinar about opportunities for local businesses to recruit international employees to address labor shortages. See right for more information, and join in if you are interested!

**Some Prevention Updates:** Here are some updates on the prevention work that the Health Department is doing...

Coalition merge: The Alliance for Substance Misuse and Eau Claire Healthy Communities have merged to make up the Eau Claire Health Alliance. The work of the Alliance for Substance Misuse Prevention is now addressed through the Substance Misuse Action Team of the Eau Claire Health Alliance. Along with the coalition, we have a new look and will focus on the prevention strategies outlined in the Community Health Improvement Plan to address alcohol and drug misuse, mental health, healthy relationships, and chronic disease.

Alcohol compliance checks: In March, Health Department staff worked with the ECPD to conduct alcohol compliance checks to assess whether licensed establishments are adhering to the law to not sell alcohol products to minors. Three out of the 29 establishments checked sold alcohol to the underage buyers. They were issued citations and received a follow up letter with resources including information about our April Retailer ID Check Training. The 26 retailers that denied sales were mailed letters and certificates of congratulations for passing their compliance checks.

Tobacco prevention update: We received confirmation of grant funding for new strategies to prevent use and address harms caused by e-cigarettes to complement our existing tobacco prevention program. New activities include creating a youth-focused video on vaping, expanding retail assessment, and providing vape disposal kits to schools. This new funding is from an agreement between the State of Wisconsin and JUUL labs resolving a two-year investigation into the e-cigarette manufacturer's marketing and sales practices.

**ATTRACT & RETAIN HIGH SKILLED INTERNATIONAL TALENT**

**ALL INDUSTRIES WELCOME**  
*We know it's hard to find workers. Come to this virtual event to learn about the PERM Program and how you can tap into an entirely new pipeline of international workers that are eager to put their talents and dedication to work in West Central Wisconsin!*

**PRESENTED BY:**  
CITY OF EAU CLAIRE  
Chippewa Valley Technical College  
EAU CLAIRE AREA EDC

**WHAT IS THE PERM PROGRAM?**  
*PERM is a type of employment-based visa category that allows employers to sponsor foreign workers for permanent residency (green card) in the country.*

**FEATURED PRESENTERS**

- Mitos Bitong, Recruitment Director and Co-Founder of International Manpower Connection
- Len Fast, Administrator, Barron Care and Rehab

715.839.4902  
Anoosheh.Hamzehee@EauClaireWI.gov

*Free Webinar*  
**TUESDAY MAY 23**  
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM  
*Info & Registration*  
<https://bit.ly/EauClairePERM>




**Cannabis education:** Through our work with schools and other community partners, we have learned that there is a need for education in the community related to cannabis and cannabis products, especially some of the newer products available locally and across the state, such as Delta 8. Providing education around cannabis is one part of the Eau Claire County Community Health Improvement Plan that was developed with community input. To respond to this need, our AODA team has done a lot of work to develop three fact sheets with information about cannabis. The goal of these materials is to provide accurate and up-to-date information, including definitions, health concerns, and considerations related to legalization of cannabis for the community. This information is available on our [website](#) (Click on “Cannabis” ribbon) and complements a regional campaign coming out next week by the Northwoods coalition on how THC is changing.

In addition to developing educational materials, we will continue to work with the Eau Claire Health Alliance and others to share the public health perspective around cannabis use and legalization of cannabis products, including a focus on preventing youth access and use, minimizing harm to the public, monitoring trends, expanding the research base, and considering health equity. Please reach out if you are interested in any of these ongoing efforts.

**Managing Risk Article:** The Journal of Local Government Law just published an article co-authored by Doug Hoffer and Jasmine Dutton from the Police Department. The article “Managing Risk by Embedding Mental Health Co-Responders in Police Departments” discusses the benefits of using embedded mental health co-responders in helping individuals experiencing mental illness. Included in the article is Chief Rokus’ discussion on the need for police departments to develop preventative approaches to this issue. This mental health co-responder concept is growing in popularity, and we are proud to be one of the communities using the approach to solve problems. [ML-MAY-JUNE-2023-DIGITAL-FINAL-5-2-2023.pdf \(imla.org\)](#)

### Managing Risk by Embedding Mental Health Co-responders in Police Departments

DOUGLAS HOFFER, *Deputy City Attorney, Eau Claire, Wisconsin* and  
JASMINE DUTTON, *Administrative Associate, Eau Claire, Wisconsin Police Department*



**INTRODUCTION**

The impact of individuals experiencing mental illness is a growing challenge in our country. Nearly 44 million people suffer from mental illness each year, and many of them lack access to adequate resources to address their difficulties. It is also common for people to struggle with short term emotional crises brought on by specific events, drug or alcohol use, or other factors. Suicide rates continue to increase across the country even among individuals with no known mental illness.

People experiencing mental illness often neglect their basic needs which leads to welfare check calls to law enforcement. Because the signs of risks of injuries and litigation. Lawsuits filed against law enforcement agencies can cost taxpayers millions of dollars, and can also neg-

officers and individuals experiencing mental illness, many have adopted a risk management approach. Risk management seeks to identify, assess, and prioritize risks and then develop policies and programs that help manage or mitigate those risks. Gathering and analyzing data is an important component in developing effective risk management plans. Police work carries inevitable risks, which often fall within one of three categories: 1) injury or harm to the public caused by an officer or agency’s actions; 2) injury or harm to

**Chippewa River Trail Tree Removal:** We recently got this update from Steve Plaza: “Our The Skid Steer Guy will be removing Ash Trees, Black Locust, and Buckthorn along the Chippewa River Trail in areas identified in the construction documents with the aid of our City Forestry Supervisor. These trees will be replaced with prairie grasses, pollinator plants, and 115 new trees designated to be

planted in the park. The reason the trees will be removed is to get natural light to the ground of the riverbank to help natural plants grow. We are removing the Ash Tree because of Emerald Ash Borer. The Black Locust and Buckthorn are invasive species that take over the natural grasses and plants area. This process will help the health of the remaining trees and the prairie grass. The pollinator grasses will provide shelter and food for the birds, bees, and butterflies when established. Part of the trail may be closed for tree removal for a limited time.”

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

- Tuesday, May 16th: CIP Work Session #2
- ❖ *Thursday, May 18th: Transit Commission reviews and recommends Transit’s CIP*
- Monday, May 22nd: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
  - Presentation by Candidates
- Tuesday, May 23rd: Council Meeting
  - Work Session on Parking
- ❖ *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
  - Presentation of Housing Needs Assessment report
- 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*
- Monday, November 6th: 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
- Monday, December 18th: Joint Plan Commission and City Council Meeting for Zoning Overhaul Discussion

**Additional Dates:**

- Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>: PERM Webinar
- Wednesday, May 24th: Hmong Chamber of Commerce Open House
- Monday, June 19th: Juneteenth Celebration (5:30PM)
- 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 **Rebecca Scharlau!**

A co-worker said this about Rebecca: “Rebecca has only been with the library for a few years and in that time it has been a pleasure to see her grow her library knowledge and responsibilities. She is always willing to help out her coworkers and is great at seeing the big picture and focusing on the tasks that most need her attention. What really makes her stand out is her compassion and the empathy she shows her customers. Rebecca has dealt with numerous tough conversations with customers going through tough times and always manages to keep herself and the customer calm. Keeping Calm and Carrying On is Rebecca's library superpower.”



Here's some more information about Rebecca ...

- Your position: "I work as a desk clerk for the L.E Phillips library! I've worked for the City for almost two years."
- What people may not know: "I consider myself an introvert. Anyone at the library knows how much I love to laugh and get to know my co-workers and customers, but at home, I treasure having time by myself."
- Favorite activities: "I largely paint and draw, but I love any creative project that involves hitting up our local Michaels and JoAnn."
- Best part about working for City: "The commitment and passion that our City employees have for this community. Working as a City employee has started, likely, a lifelong love for the community and its citizens."
- Life philosophy: "Enjoy the small things about life... I think it makes the bigger things easier."
- Anything else? "Come visit the library! There is something here for everyone, for me it is our Library of Things. I love being able to try out new things without spending a bunch of money on it. Want to play ukulele, try stained glass making, learn to crochet? We have it! Did your 2nd TV in six months just die? There's a projector to check-out while you search for something that will withstand your apartment's electrical-frying abilities!"

**A Few More Pictures**: The City Hall Duck Family made it through another spring! Over just a few weeks, we saw picture one and then picture two.... And then, by the next morning, the whole family was gone. (We guess the mother escorted the ducklings to the river?) Safe travels, ducklings!

