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## CITY MANAGER UPDATE TO THE CITY COUNCIL

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- **Special Employee Spotlight:** Eric Jorgensen

### From the Manager

**Q&As:** Here are two questions that came through the City Manager’s Office this week and that may interest you all...

#### Home-Based Businesses

*Question:* From the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty... how can we remove restrictions placed on operating home-based businesses to promote a more business-friendly community?

*Answer:* Home occupation issues are a balancing of interests between the homeowner desiring to conduct some commercial operation out of their residence and neighboring homeowners who often desire to have only residential uses in their residential neighborhood. When an application is submitted, many are permitted and some are denied based on the specifics of each proposal and in the legislative judgment of the City Council. Note that the zoning status of “Home Occupations” will be possible to review and revise as part of our Century Code (aka Zoning Overhaul) project.

#### Bike/Scooter Share:

*Question:* Does Eau Claire have a bike or scooter share program?

*Answer:* Our Engineering, Economic Development, and City Attorney’s Office staff spent quite a bit of time developing the guidelines and laws for a shared bike/scooter program. The efforts resulted in City ordinance adoption by City Council, see Eau Claire Code 5.64, which is attached. Scooter share is also permitted in Code 5.65. A license can be applied for by any company interested in entering the Eau Claire market. Running a bike/scooter share business is quite a complicated process, though, both for the vendor and for the host municipality, and we have not yet had a company successfully launch in Eau Claire. Last year, the City came to an agreement with the company Robyn Scooters to start a pilot program this past fall. However, it has not yet moved forward.

**Chamber Reception:** The Chamber will host a reception in June for new City Council President Emily Berge. At the reception, we will also welcome our new Council Member, Jessica Schoen. There is no charge to attend, but advance registration is appreciated, and please register here: [Reception: City Council President Emily Berge - Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce \(eauclairechamber.org\)](https://www.eauclairechamber.org)

Tuesday, June 20th, 4-5:30 PM, Chamber Office

**Updates from Community Services:** Please find some updates on what's happening in the Community Services Department:

- **Recreation Administration:** Registration for summer activities is going very well with over 5,600 activity registrations so far. Pool Pass memberships for 2023 are now above 475 for household memberships and 3,355 individual memberships. Summer staff recruitment is almost complete, with orientations already underway as of Wednesday, May 17th. There is still a need for a few more DPI certified instructors for River City Adventures and the soccer instruction program. ECASD has been contacted to help promote the opportunities with teachers.
- **Fairfax Pool:** Final preparations for opening of Fairfax Pool on Saturday, June 3rd, are well underway. The pool is filled and working well mechanically and the concession stand remodel is complete. Staff orientations are underway and will continue until the pool opening. Repairs are being made to a portion of the main shade feature canopy after minor damage was discovered during the pool opening inspection process, and they will be complete before the pool opens.
- **Hobbs Ice Arena:** The spring dry-floor event season has ended after the CVRD event on Saturday, May 13th. Skating and hockey groups are continuing off-season training and will ramp up in June when school is out. Recreation summer programs will begin using the O'Brien Rink dry-floor space in June as well. Off-season facility maintenance is ongoing, and all seasonal staff have left their positions for the summer. All but two are planning to return in late August/September for the busy fall/winter ice season.
- **Water Treatment Plant:** The WTP is now fully staffed with 10 operators, which means they have been able to shift to a new 12-hour shift schedule. This change in shifts was done to promote employee health and well-being to reduce the number of swing shifts. The WTP staff continue to work with Gannett-Fleming on the design/layout of the proposed PFAS treatment



building. Samples from the PFAS pilot test continue to be collected and tested. As more sample results are received, it will become clearer what type of product will be best to remove PFAS from Eau Claire’s water. By early June, 60 percent of the design will be due for preliminary review.

- Waste Water Treatment Plant: The WWTP continues to operate smoothly. The spring biosolids spreading operating ended on Friday, May 12th. Approximately 2.4 million gallons of biosolids were spread on farm fields this spring. Crews are working to complete spring cleaning and maintenance of the lift stations.
- Water Distribution/Sewer Collection/Customer Service: Crews are continuing with hydrant flushing. Big meter testing and seasonal meter installation continues. Testing of the Parks Division RPZ’s have been completed. Storm plugs that were installed to help prevent flooding are being removed this week. Crews continue to put in overtime to keep up with the TDS fiber optic installation locates. Utilities Safety Day was held on Wednesday, May 17th. Topics covered were specific to Utilities and included confined space entry, fire safety, and online security.

**Stats for Success:** President Berge and I have been working on launching an effort with the Wisconsin League of Cities to bring together communities to discuss data and best practices. They recently sent out a form to solicit interest: “The League invites you to participate in a data and statistics project. From here groups will be formed around the interest areas to determine next steps such as a data collection plan. The effort is coordinated by UniverCity Year, UW-Madison and the City of Eau Claire. [https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6Yk2JLcuPXsONTg](https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6Yk2JLcuPXsONTg)” Stay tuned for how this experiment turns out and how you can participate!

**Updates from Health Department:** And here are a few updates from our Health Department...

- Farm Show: Environmental Health Staff (Anna Hilger, Tristin Faust, Elizabeth Paulson, Nicole Kragness) participated in the Eau Claire Farm Show March 7th and 8th at the Chippewa Valley Expo Center. Staff set up a Health Department booth to highlight information on food safety, radon education, water testing, Lyme disease and vector-borne diseases. Staff interacted with approximately 200 community members to answer their questions about the various programs and services the Health Department provides.
- Blood Pressure Cuff Loaner Program: High blood pressure can lead to serious health problems, including heart disease, which is the number one cause of death for both men and women in Eau Claire County, and across the United States. As an extension of the completed Heart Health Ambassador program piloted last year, in March we started a program for county residents to borrow blood pressure machines and cuffs to use at home for up to 12



months at no cost to help people track and manage their blood pressure at home. The program includes: an initial consultation with health department staff, an optional check-in appointments to discuss blood pressure readings, challenges in reaching blood pressure goals, healthy lifestyle solutions, and support for better blood pressure management. We have over 30 cuffs available to loan, and so far, four community members are using the program.

- UWEC – Book conversation: UW-Eau Claire’s Center for Racial and Restorative Justice invited community partners to participate in a UWEC/government conversation that was centered on a book by Tonya Wolfe. The Center’s aim is to educate students and the greater Eau Claire community about the history of race in America and the barriers to upward mobility. *Last Summer on State Street* by Toya Wolfe is a novel about four girls living in the Robert Taylor Homes on Chicago’s South Side. It is a coming-of-age story about friendship, community, and resilience during one life-changing summer. Health department, Library and City leadership participated, along with a number of UWEC students, staff, and faculty. Many social determinant of health issues were discussed as part of this community conversation. For more information on Last Summer on State Street, UWEC shared these resources:

[Meet Toya Wolfe: Author of Last Summer On State Street with Dawn Turner - YouTube](#)  
[Last Summer on State Street is a Complex Story of Relationships and Resistance - Chicago Magazine](#)

- National Public Health Week: National Public Health Week was the first week in April. For NPHW, our communication team worked with our divisions to create posts that show a “day in the life” of our divisions. We also had a giveaway post that challenged community members to do a “public health challenge”. Options included: sit down and have a meal with

friends/family; do a random act of kindness; call, text, or connect with a friend/family member; get outside and enjoy some Vit. D from the sunshine (bonus: ask someone to join you!); or play cards or a board game with friends/family. We chose a random winner to get a prize basket (pictured below). We had over 20 people complete the challenge. Our giveaway post generated an interview request from [WQOW](#).

Overall the posts were well received. Our giveaway post helped our Facebook page have the highest number of views in one day yet this year (300+ views compared to average of ~100 views), and generated several likes to our page. Links for each post: [Giveaway, Policy and](#)

[Systems, Environmental Sciences, Community Health Promotion](#)

- Suicide prevention: Chelsie Klatt coordinates suicide prevention strategies as part of the state Maternal and Child Health grant, including working with the community to provide gatekeeper trainings, such as QPR, and providing suicide prevention resources to schools and



other partners. This work complements work of the Eau Claire Health Alliance Mental Health Action Team, which just this year has come together with MHATs from Dunn and Chippewa counties to focus on suicide prevention for the region, including sharing resources, bullying prevention programs for schools, and promoting the Green Bandana project, an anti-stigma campaign.

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

- ❖ *June 6th: Plan Commission reviews and recommends CIP*
- Monday, June 12th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
  - New District 1 Council Member Jessica Schoen sworn in
  - Public Discussion of 2024-2028 CIP Budget
- Tuesday, June 13th: Council Meeting
  - Presentation of Housing Needs Assessment report
- ❖ *Friday, June 23th: 2024-2028 CIP Budget Amendments Due*
- 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
- Monday, July 10th: Regular Council public Hearing/Discussion Night
  - Public Discussion of 2024-2028 CIP Budget
- Tuesday, July 11th: Council Meeting
  - Council action on 2024-2028 CIP Budget
  - 2024 Operating Budget Work Session 1
- 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:**

- Monday, June 5th: Swearing-In Ceremony for Chief Matt Jaggar
- Friday, June 16th: Eggs and Issues Legislative Update
- Monday, June 19th: Juneteenth Celebration (5:30PM)
- Tuesday, June 20th: Chamber Reception for President Berge
- Friday, July 28th: LWM Local Government 101

**Employee Spotlight:**

Here’s our next employee spotlight! Today we highlight **Eric Jorgensen**. (Submit your highlight suggestion here:

<https://forms.gle/f1PUPpFaWStsvH458>)

What coworkers say about Eric: “The work the custodians can be tasked with can be very challenging and absolutely icky at times. With this, Eric is always pleasant and has a smile. Eric never hesitates to help with custodial needs. My day is always brighter when I happen to run into Eric.”



More about Eric...

- Your position: “I work in building and grounds and have been here 7 ½ years.”
- Favorite activities: “I love hanging out with my family and friends, and I also enjoy bike riding and the outdoors/vacations.”
- What people may not know: “I have been a remote-control car hobbyist since I’ve been around 10 years old.”
- Best part about working for the City: “I like meeting all the different people that I interact with from all the different buildings I work in.
- Life philosophy: “Enjoy life to its fullest while you can and learn from your mistakes.”