



CITY MANAGER UPDATE TO THE CITY COUNCIL

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From the Manager

Boyd Park Ribbon Cutting: The City, the East Hill Neighborhood, and the skateboard enthusiast community are gearing up for an exciting day... the Boyd Park Ribbon Cutting! It is scheduled for Saturday, June 17th, at 10AM. Please plan to join us if you are able/interested. The Park's design was part of the East Hill Neighborhood Association Master Plan that was approved in 2020 by the City Council. The project has included a great deal of effort by many partners. The Eau Claire Skate Park Association raised funding for over 10 years for the project, and the East Hill Neighborhood helped at every step of the way, raising money, advocating, and pitching in with their own labor. In terms of the City's involvement, it was a true team effort, with the City Parks division coordinating and assisting with construction of the playground and skate park, the City Streets division resurfacing the broken asphalt path and curb and bringing in base material for the skatepark, and the City Utilities division replacing a 100-year-old storm water pipe, which needed to be done prior to any construction on top of the ground. In addition, the Community Development and Engineering Departments worked on the park's successful Empower Eau Claire project and helped plan for the installation of the E-Cacia Solar Tree, which will provide shade and put energy back into the system.

Update on Regional Water Conservation: You have no doubt read about the water conservation efforts of neighboring communities due to the lack of rain. Checking in with our Water Plant, staff report that the Water Treatment Plant is operating smoothly. Pumping has been able to keep up with demand during the day and maintain our storage levels over night. A question has come up as to the reason why dry conditions result the need for water conservation, given engineering reports of the region's abundant aquifer which is recharged by the Chippewa River. Water Utilities Manager Ben Spanel explained that the main concern with regard to dry stretches in Eau Claire is that there's more water usage in the community, mainly due to people watering their lawns. It's not that there's less water for the WTP to draw from, but an increased in need to process water, and our processing capacity is limited by our wells and equipment. Though we are not looking to implement a watering limit right now, we nevertheless look to promote water conservation. Here are some tips for reducing water usage that Tess Morgan prepared:

- Use rain barrels to collect rain runoff to use for watering gardens (this saves about 1,300 gal/month for homeowners during peak summer months).

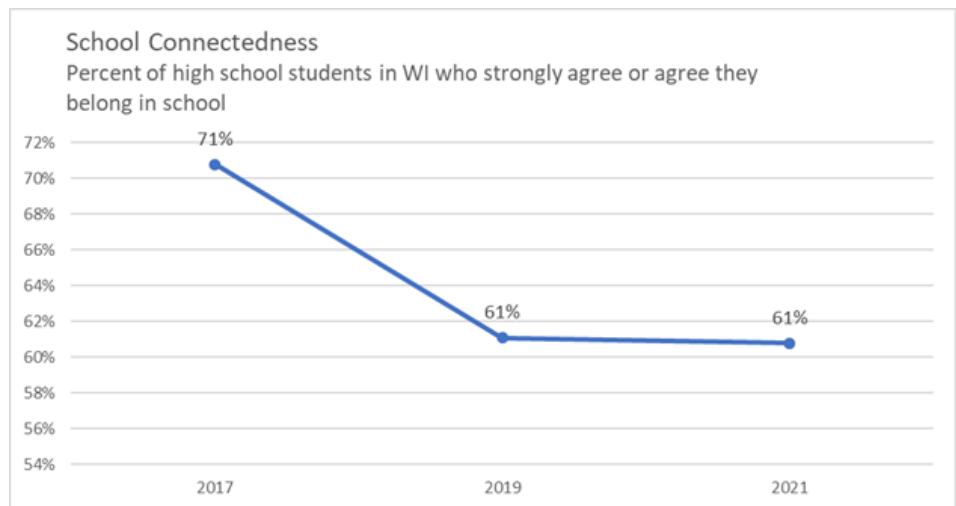
- Water between 6AM and 8AM. This allows for the best water penetration and causes less evaporation. Move sprinklers constantly. The goal is not to encourage lawn growth, but rather to keep the crown of the grass plant alive. Dormancy is a normal part of the plant’s life cycle.
- Do not cut the grass too short. Allow grass to grow to at least 2 ½ to 3” long going into the dry part of summer.

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Equity Grant Project Update: ICMA Fellow Danya Morman and Health Project Manager Janessa VandenBerge shared this update about work underway on the MCH Grant Project.

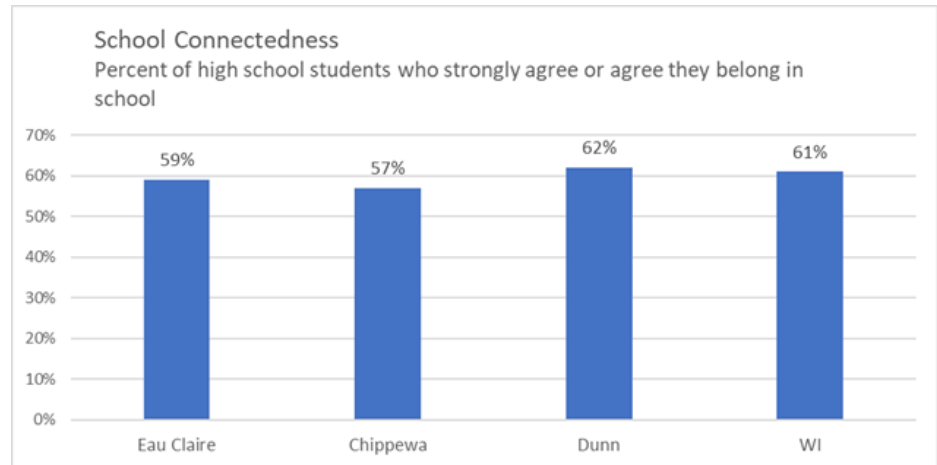
The MCH project brings together partners from across Eau Claire County including City of Eau Claire, Eau Claire City-County Health Department, Eau Claire County Department of Human Services, Eau Claire Area School District, the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley, and the United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley. The first goal of this project is to bring organizations together across the county to develop an understanding of local data related to child health equity outcomes and to assess data gaps. Project partners spent the last few months collecting and analyzing local child health indicator data. Over 50 indicators were reviewed through a four-step assessment process. The group narrowed down the list of indicators based on the scope of the disparity observed and based on our ability to impact the indicator in the remainder of the grant period.

School connectedness was identified as the key indicator to focus on. This indicator looks at Eau Claire County middle and high school students’ sense of belonging in school. School connectedness is an important [protective factor](#) that promotes the health and well-being of students. Students who feel more connected to school are less likely to engage in risky behaviors (e.g. related to violence, sexual health, and substance use) and have emotional distress and thoughts of suicide. On the other hand, students who feel more connected to school are more likely to engage in positive health behaviors (physical activity and healthy eating) and have higher grades and test scores, have better school attendance, and graduate high school.

The first graph shows the percentage of high school students in Wisconsin who feel they belong in school. This graph shows a decline in sense of belonging between 2017 and 2019.



This second graph shows a comparison between our neighboring counties and the overall percentage in the state. We see that Eau Claire County is trailing slightly behind the state but overall, we see similar levels of school connectedness between neighboring counties.



Our next step of this grant is to collect stories and qualitative data regarding students' sense of belonging in school. This information will be used to further inform a pilot project implementation in Eau Claire County.

Police Officers (and Library Board Member) Go Above and Beyond: Joshua Miller shared this interesting update... He is really taking his appointment to the Library Board seriously, even protecting the Library from falling trees!

"I was at the library and happened to have a view out towards the Eau Claire river when I heard a boom and thought I saw branches swaying. I went to the roof balcony, happened to run into Colleen, but couldn't make anything out. As I left the library and looks down the river from the Dewey Street bridge, I saw that a tree had indeed fallen by the Farwell bridge and some branches had landed on the sidewalk and in the road. I walked over and saw Police Officers blocking the right lane of traffic and clearing the roads.



It never rained downtown today but it was breezy for a while and there was some wind. The tree looked a bit rotted in the trunk. Hopefully no damage was sustained to the Farwell bridge. One damaged downtown bridge is enough. Just a bit of exciting while downtown this evening."

SHERM Certification: The Human Resources Department is excited to announce that all three HR Specialists (Kelsey Brunner, Alia Johnson, and Kelly Shea) have passed the SHRM-CP exam and are now HR Certified Professionals! The SHRM-CP certification is a professional, globally-recognized HR certification through the Society of Human Resource Management. The pass rate for this exam has fluctuated between 64-68 percent in the past year – so it is very impressive that they all passed on the first attempt! We are very proud to have such a dedicated HR Staff!

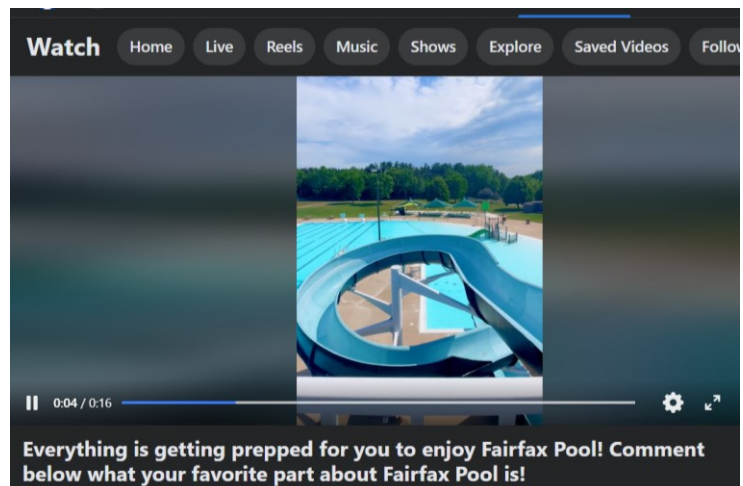


Farwell Street Closure & Detour: If you've been near City Hall lately, you will have noticed that a portion of Farwell Street will be closed starting Monday, June 5th, for intersection repairs at Farwell and E. Grand. The project is anticipated to take 1.5 weeks, and will be followed by another approximately 1.5 weeks of work to the intersection of Farwell Street and Main.

Rec Staff Shout-Out: The Recreation staff shared some updates about the public's appreciation for the pool staff. Recreation Administrative staff Claire Ystebo said that, when she posted on social media to ask for people's favorite parts about Fairfax, she got the responses bulleted below. We echo the appreciation... As Dave Solberg said, "Recreation does an amazing job shaping the group of new hires into a cohesive group that provides hours, days, weeks, and months of fun for residents of the Chippewa Valley," and as Lane Berg said, "Top notch people produce top notch result!!" See here and below for the shout-outs: [Watch | Facebook](#)

"What's your favorite part about Fairfax Pool?"

- All of it... A little something for all ages and preference of swim.
- The fact that I can relax while my kids get to enjoy the water while close enough to me to feel comfortable.
- lap swim !!!
- Lap swimming,
- I got waterproof mp3 headphones this year hope they work out I've been dreaming about em for a few summers now
- My kids being exhausted when we get home!!
- The size if the pool and space around it, the diving well and the deep end of the pool.
- Relaxing!:)



- The slide. 😊
- How safe it is because the lifeguards are trained so well!
- Diving boards
- I asked my 10 yo and she says that there are so many different things to do.
- This looks amazing!! We love it all!!
- watching my kids have all the fun
- I just want to dive in
- Amazing 😊 we go every week, at least once.
- Tube slide and diving boards
- The pool

Council Calendar (With Tentative Work Session Dates)

- ❖ *June 6th: Plan Commission reviews 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
- Monday, June 19th: Joint Plan Commission and City Council Meeting for Zoning Overhaul Kickoff
- *Friday, June 23th: 2024-2028 CIP Budget Amendments Due*
- 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:

- Saturday, June 17th: Boyd Park Ribbon Cutting
- 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
- Tuesday, August 1st: National Night Out

Employee Spotlight:

Here’s our next employee spotlight! Today we highlight **Glenn Swanson**. (Submit your highlight suggestion here: <https://forms.gle/f1PUPpFaWStsvH458>)

What coworkers say about Glenn: “Glenn is an absolutely excellent employee and more importantly he is an excellent human being and his positive attitude and smile improves everyone's day in the office.”

More about Eric...

- Your position: “I



am The City Surveyor. I have had the pleasure working for the City of Eau Claire since August of 1989.”

- Favorite activities: “There are several things that I love to spend time doing outside of working for the City. In no particular order they include riding my Harley, playing golf, volunteering with the Boy Scout Program, helping my bride with her Hand Spun Yarn Business, and spending time with our grandkids and our adult children.”
- What people may not know: “I have had two employers in my adult life.”
- Best part about working for the City: “Every day is a new adventure. There is always something that we get to do that will help to make our Community a better place to live and work in.”
- Life philosophy: “Always be helpful and kind. Treat others as you would like to be treated. It will always come back to you.”
- Anything else to share: “The City of Eau Claire is a great place to work and live in. I am grateful every day for the friends and family that I have come to know and love over the years of working for the City. I have been involved with some great projects that have help to make this the best place to work.”