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**From the Manager**

**Zoning Code Overhaul Launch:** We are excited to kick off the zoning code overhaul process on Monday, June 19th, with a joint meeting of the City Council and Plan Commission. This first meeting will be focused on project background and process, and we will begin brainstorming topics and issues that may be addressed as part of the zoning overhaul process. The Planning Department will also ask Council and Commission members to complete a "Zoning Policy Advisory Committee (ZPAC) Participation Agreement" to help set out ground rules to govern the process. Soon after this meeting, the City will hold a community open house and release an online survey. Here is the project website: [Project website](#)

**Half Moon Trail Progress:** Community Services reported: "The Upper Concrete portion of the Half Moon lake Trail connecting Carson Park and Rod and Gun Park is completed. The Boardwalk section will begin to be installed after the Fourth of July Holiday. The City will plant pollinator prairie grasses and native plants along the trail to add color, stability, and a natural water filtration for Half Moon Lake. The Ribbon Cutting will be planned when the entire project is complete in early fall." I checked it out this weekend, and it's really impressive how the Parks, Forestry, and Engineering teams worked to design the trail with the least disturbance possible. You can see how the trail winds around trees to create a path that feels magical and transforms the sense of connectivity between Rod and Gun and Carson Park and then many trails that connect the area to the University, downtown, Lakeshore School, Water Street, Phoenix, and on and on.



**WEAU Story on Family's Visit to Fire Station:** Please take a minute to watch this video about our Fire Department, if you haven't seen it already. A family went to visit the crew that saved the life of the dad in their family. In the story, that person, Charlie Prochnow, said that the reason he and his family came to thank the staff is because: "They have so many negative stories of this person didn't make it or whatever else happened. I mean these guys are human too, they need the positive feedback too." [Family personally thanks first responders who helped save life of husband and father \(weau.com\)](#)



**Open House and Badge Pinning:** The Fire Department invites the City Council, staff, and public to join in on two upcoming events:

Station 6 Open House: The Eau Claire Fire Department cordially invites the community as we celebrate a remodeled Fire Station 6 staffed with firefighter positions approved by Eau Claire residents in the November 2022 referendum.

- *What:* Station 6 Open House
- *When:* 3-6PM, Wednesday, June 28th
- *Where:* Eau Claire Fire Station #6 3020 Golf Road

Swearing-In Ceremony: The Eau Claire Fire Department cordially invites the community to the swearing-in ceremony of those personnel recently hired and promoted to the position of Engineer.

- *What:* Swearing In for recent hires: Collin Eskew, Dylan Evenson, Zachary Gaede, Kyle Moldenhauer, Dillon Oates, Johnathan Schmit, NS Jon Schnelle. And promotion for Mike Linstedt
- *When:* 4PM, Friday, June 30th
- *Where:* Eau Claire Fire Station #10 820 Malden Avenue

**Compliance Maintenance Annual Report:** As discussed in the last Council meeting, each year the Wastewater Treatment Plant is required by the DNR to complete a Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR). Ben Spanel, Manager of Utilities, shared a bit more information about the report:

“The CMAR is a report card that measures the performance of wastewater treatment and looks at the plant’s compliance with the permit requirements. The purpose of the report is to evaluate the entire wastewater system for problems or deficiencies. The WWTP is then able to use the report to address collection and treatment needs, improve operations and maintenance, and begin formal planning for system upgrades.

Eau Claire’s wastewater treatment plant and collection system are consistently at the top of the class, and in 2023, we received a 4.0 grade point. This perfect report card is only achievable through the hard work and dedication of employees at the wastewater plant and collection system. Every day, different types of tests are done on the wastewater to make sure the plant is operating as smoothly as possible. The test results are critical for making decisions of what pumping rates to change, how much chemical to add, where to adjust aeration, and how much biosolids to spread on farm fields. Tests and experiments are also conducted at different areas of the plant to look at ways to conserve energy and operate more efficiently which leads to cost savings.

The work done in the collection system also contributes to the perfect grade point. Lift stations are inspected daily and the consistent maintenance schedule ensures there are no pump failures. Each year, over 300-miles of sanitary sewer pipe is cleaned, which prevents backups of sewage into homes and businesses.

With the top-notch work of the sewer utility team, Eau Claire can be proud that the effluent leaving the WWTP is cleaner than the Chippewa River that it discharges into. The WWTP is one of the hidden gems of Eau Claire. For anyone interested, an amazing tour can be scheduled just about any time. Simply reach out.”

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Announcement:** Also related to wastewater, the State lab that helps monitor pathogens in wastewater (most recently for Covid) wrote to say that they are adding methods to use for future surveillance, pending state and local public health recommendations. This means, Wisconsin communities like Eau Claire may soon have more information to track the incidence of seasonal flu, RSV, adenoviruses, norovirus, and antibiotic resistant organisms of concern.

**Recreation Scholarships:** Administrative staff Claire Ystebo shared the good news that 2023 is the year with the most Scholarships! Currently, we have 148 families participating in programming through Recreation’s Scholarship Program. In prior years, there were the following levels of utilization: 128 in 2022, 82 in 2021, and 145 in 2019. We will be working hard to expand the scholarship program and make it as accessible as possible, including potentially through partnerships with other City, District, and non-profit organizations.



**Thank you for the Flowers:** City staff received a thank you note from a constituent for the flowers that staff plant and maintain. The constituent wrote: “Thank you City of Eau Claire for the beautiful tulips, flowers, and rocks on our Barstow Street and Wilson Park. Just brought JOY to my heart.” And here’s a picture of the staff who make this possible - Community Services staff Eric Jorgensen and Dan Steffen. Thank you!



**“Thank you City of Eau Claire for the beautiful tulips, flowers, and rocks on our Barstow Street and Wilson Park. Just brought JOY to my heart.”**



**City Hall Tunnel Tour:** City staff joined Rod Bonesteel for a tour of the “hidden tunnels” of City Hall. The tour will run again this Friday at 1:30PM, in case anyone wants to join! Thank you Rod for sharing your knowledge of all the systems, history, and corners of City buildings.



**More Duck News:** The abundant ducks remind us that waterways are ALWAYS close by in Eau Claire!

- **Heroic Rescue:** Jana Oldenberg, from our Parks Crew, saved baby ducklings from one of the storm drains at Cameron Park this past week. As one community member said in response to the picture: “That crew member must be amazing to work with. She went above and beyond in her job. Wish we had more like her in this world.” Watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/RYMCMpdnbO0>
- **Parking Challenges:** Then, on my way to work, I noticed a duck sleeping in parking spot at City Hall. It may be a topic we have to add to our list of parking considerations!



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

Note that we are trying to figure out a way to schedule a CIP/budget tour, however, most people are not available during the day and a number of people will be gone for next week’s Council meeting. Stay tuned...

- Monday, June 19th: Joint Plan Commission and City Council Meeting for Zoning Overhaul Kickoff
- *Thursday, June 22nd: 2024-2028 CIP Budget Amendments Due*
- Monday, June 26th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
  - Updates on Phase II ARPA Projects
- 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
  - Additional Updates on Phase II ARPA Projects
- 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 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 **Fire Fighter/Paramedic Korey Maves** out of Station 9. (Submit your highlight suggestion here: <https://forms.gle/f1PUPpFaWStsvH458>)

- Training: “Through the FireMedic program at CVTC and as a Paid on Call volunteer in Menomonie.”



- Hometown: “I’m from Menomonie and originally went to Stout. My roommate Evan my senior year was a volunteer firefighter, and he got me interested. A few years later, I became a volunteer myself. After a year, I knew this was what I wanted to do, so I went back to school to do this full time.”
- Best part of the job: “Every day is different, every call is different. It’s definitely not boring, that’s for sure! Being away from your family for 24 hours or more at a time can be hard, but I’ve been fortunate enough to get to work with some great people and we have an absolute blast together.”
- Favorite activities outside of work: “I really enjoy fishing, hunting, boating, mountain biking, etc, but naps are by far my favorite thing.”



**A Few More Pictures:**

**Fresh Faces:** There have been some new faces around City hall lately, between summer interns and new recruits. Engineering interns were out undertaking pavement condition index evaluation throughout the City and sorting keys at City Hall. Also pictured is the new Firefighter recruit class. And next, our City

Manager’s Office Fellow, Danya Morman, was happy to spot their friend and classmate, WQOQ reporter Elliott Adams. They both worked together at the UWEC paper. We are happy to see them making such cool contributions to their community! Finally, a number of City elected officials and staff got to hear a report from



Memorial Teacher Erin Layde’s class. Student teams prepared recommendations on how to carry out infill development, improve transit, and solve other local challenges. The presentations were awesome and inspiring.

**Fresh Faces from 30 Years Ago:** Our new Community Development Director, Aaron White, was cleaning out his office to move upstairs, which gave us a chance to study this picture from this files. If anyone can pick out Aaron from the group, let me know and I’ll enter you into a drawing for a TBD prize. Aaron shares: “This was a picture of my platoon, early 1993, alongside the airport runway in Mogadishu, Somalia. I was the Assault section Leader for Weapons Platoon, Golf Company, 2nd Battalion 9th Marine. We were the ground force element of the 15th MEU SOC (Marine Expeditionary Unit, Special Operations Capable). We were the first unit to land in Somalia as part of Operation Restore Hope, Dec. 9th 1992, conducting the first Marine combat amphibious landing, launched from the USS Juneau, since the Korean war. We ran humanitarian and combat operations in Mogadishu, Kismayo, and Baidoa, Somalia through March 1993. My unit took casualties, but all of the guys in my platoon made it home.”

