



Winter 2009

COMMUNITY NEWS

City of Eau Claire Green Efforts

Sustainability is “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” This definition has come to mean not only meeting human needs, but environmental and economic needs as well. Thus, to do its part, the City of Eau Claire is conducting a process to amend its Comprehensive Plan to address green issues more adequately.

The City will amend its 2005 Comprehensive Plan to include a chapter on sustainability. The process began in September and should conclude in the first quarter of 2009. The goal of this effort is to, “Make certain that principles of sustainability in the Eau Claire area are followed to improve our quality of life by meeting present environmental, economic, and social needs without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same.” This will be achieved by creating action policies within 10 target areas the community identified: Energy, Local Food, Environmental Conservation, Atmosphere, Managing Waste, Strong and Healthy Community, Sustainable Development, Balanced Transportation, Greener Economy, and Sustainable Government.



The City of Eau Claire is committed to environmental stewardship and sustainable principles as an organization, and to those who live and work in the community. The City’s internal Green Team mission is to promote environmental and social gains in the workplace. For example, the City will submit a renewable energy grant application to the State Office of Energy Independence. The purpose of the grant is to help the City reach 25% of its power usage from renewable energies such as biomass, biogas, wind, and solar by the year 2025.

To learn more, call 839-4914 or go to
<http://www.eaucraigewi.gov/Green>.

ACHIEVE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
(AROUND EAU CLAIRE)

GO TO SAVEYOURENERGY.ORG

EAU CLAIRE TRANSIT

RIDE THE BUS!
SAVE YOUR ENERGY!

The Bus is like an all-access pass to big events like football, concerts, and festivals. There's always a way to get around traffic with convenient routes and schedules. And on the bus, I can really enjoy myself, relax and save money for other, more important things - like a t-shirt from my favorite team!

Go to SAVEYOURENERGY.ORG for details on how you can achieve your energy independence by riding the bus!

Eau Claire

One of the Best Places to Raise Your Kids.

Business Week Magazine

2008 Voice of the People

- Award for Excellence in Parks
- Award for Transformation in Parks

ICMA and National Research Center

Downtown Merit Achievement Award for Public Space—Phoenix Park

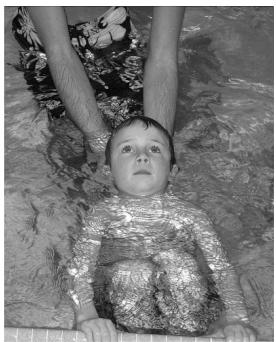
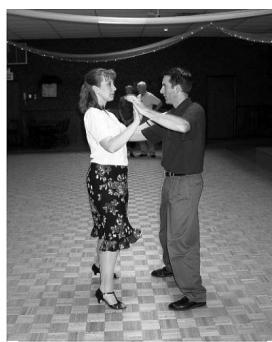
International Downtown Association Conference

Wisconsin Good Government Award

Foth and the League of Wisconsin Municipalities

BE

A C T I V E



The Eau Claire Recreation Division encourages us all to

BE ACTIVE. Parks & Recreation programs are designed to create a sense of community, enhance our neighborhoods, strengthen our families, and promote healthy lifestyles.

The **BE**nefits of community recreation include

Arts – an appreciation for music, dance, theatre and visual arts...

Competition – emphasis will be on participation, sportsmanship and fair play...

Teach – lifelong leisure –

activities will promote wellness and lifetime pursuits...

Inclusion – accommodations will be made to include all participants in activities...

Variety – a diverse selection of activities are offered...

Excellence – the Recreation Division is committed to offering quality programming and maintaining facilities to high community standards.

A complete listing of fall and winter recreational opportunities is available through the Parks and Recreation Department or on the City's Web site at www.eauclairewi.gov/PR.

Strategic Budgeting for Sustainable Government

The focus of the 2009 Eau Claire budget is strategic budgeting for sustainable government. Key long-term objectives for 2009 include providing quality public services, ensuring maintenance and replacement of the City's streets, water, sewer, parks, and other facilities, and developing a financial balance between limited revenues and rising costs of services. Achieving these objectives for 2009 will be challenging, and the outlook for 2010 and future years will be impacted by the downturn in the economy, the State deficit, and ongoing levy limits.

The City has been proactive in retrenching and downsizing services. Since 2003, the City has eliminated 43 positions. Some of the service changes resulting from the reduction in employees include reduced park maintenance, shortened snow plowing hours, less support for neighborhood associations, less asphalt overlays and patching, fewer bus routes, less frequent restaurant inspections, and fewer books and programs at the Library.

The City will identify further reductions totaling \$430,000 for 2009 to offset the elimination of the proposed vehicle registration fee from the budget. The budget shortfall for 2010 is expected to be in the range of an additional \$1.5 million to \$2 million, depending upon the size of reductions in State support for local governments. To meet the budget shortfalls, the City is taking initiatives to control costs and provide services as efficiently and effectively as possible. Our new Green Team, energy studies, reorganizations, consolidations, and intergovernmental cooperative agreements are each a part of the efforts to find a balance between the services citizens demand and the City's ability to pay for them.



High Voter Turnout in City of Eau Claire

Voter activity was very high this fall! Over 37,000 City residents cast a ballot in the November 4 presidential election. Will that high interest level continue to the spring election?

Locally, City residents will vote for Council President and the five district Council Representatives. These members will be elected for three-year terms. Voters will also select members of the local school boards and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, along with a seat on the State Supreme Court.

Anyone interested in running for City Council can pick up nomination papers at the City Clerk's office. Completed papers must be turned in to the City Clerk before 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 6.

Eau Claire Community Videos

**come watch our
Community
Videos**



The City Web site now includes an “icon” link to the Community Videos Project. One-minute video topics include education, quality of life, real estate and relocation, health care, retail and shopping, dining and restaurants, downtown, and business and industry. ELocalLink provides these free promotional videos to highlight our unique community strengths and to encourage business, tourism, and population growth.

PET LICENSING



Many Eau Claire households include a dog, a cat, or other pets.

Most pets are well cared for and are appreciated by owners and neighbors alike. In order to ensure that pets do not become a nuisance and are not mistreated, City Ordinances have been enacted.

Any dog or cat five months or older requires a pet license. The license year runs from January 1 to December 31.

Applications for licenses are available at City Hall or may be downloaded from the E-Government page on the City’s website. A late fee of \$6 is collected from owners of pets who fail to apply within 30 days of acquiring a licensable pet. Failure to license or renew may result in a forfeiture of \$198.

Not all snowfalls result in a full plowing operation. Decisions on whether to undertake a full plow operation are based on the amount and type of snow, time of year, and upcoming weather forecast. The current policy is that the City will undertake a full residential plowing operation after three inches of snow has fallen. Snowfall amounts less than three inches will have primary and secondary streets plowed, but not all residential streets.

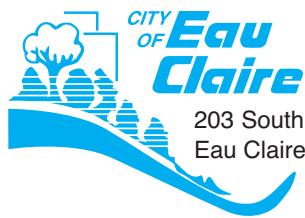
The City is divided into 13 ice control routes with one salt-spreader-equipped plow truck assigned to each route. Travel lanes are plowed as salt is applied to the street surface. The goal is to keep the arterial street system and major hills open during a snowfall and to prevent snow and ice from bonding to the pavement. The ice control routes include 85 miles of arterial and collector streets.

The City is also divided into 16 primary snowplow routes that require each vehicle to cover nearly 5 miles. It takes approximately two hours for a truck to complete a primary plow route. After the primary plow routes have been completed, vehicles begin plowing the residential areas. The City is divided into 30 residential plow areas and 5 pick-up truck routes. Experience has shown that 10 to 12 hours are needed to plow the 255 miles of residential streets, after the primary routes have been cleared, for a typical four-inch snowfall. Each residential plow area has two starting points that are alternated for each plowing event. Most areas have one or more secondary streets serving industrial, commercial, neighborhood areas, schools, or steep hills that are always plowed first.

Beginning at midnight following a full plow operation, the street crews undertake clean-up plowing. The clean-up plowing takes advantage of the alternate side parking regulations to plow one side of the street in residential areas and is typically conducted on two consecutive nights. Periodically throughout the winter, street maintenance crews haul snow from the business areas in the Downtown, Water Street, and snow bank problem locations.

During snow removal efforts, motorists are asked to slow down, watch for flashing lights on vehicles, and keep a safe distance from snow removal equipment. Shoveling, plowing, or blowing snow onto the streets or alleys can create dangerous conditions and is prohibited by City ordinance. Sidewalks should be cleared of snow and ice within 24 hours following a snowfall or the development of icy conditions. Reports of hazardous conditions, icy or snow-covered sidewalks, and questions about the snowplow operations can be directed to the Public Works Streets Maintenance Division at 715-839-4963.

**THERE'S
FROST ON
THE MOON**



203 South Farwell
Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701

PRSR STD
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This newsletter is printed on paper containing 30% recycled content, using soy-based ink.

It Helps to Know

FREE SAND

for slippery sidewalks is available at the Central Maintenance Facility, 911 Forest Street. Gates are open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Bring your own container and shovel.

CURRENT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MATERIALS,

including background information, are available at the Library Reference Desk.

SMOKE DETECTOR OR FIRE ESCAPE PLANNING QUESTIONS

can be directed to the Fire Department at 839-4825.

Carson Park Parking Lot December 26 - January 23

Christmas Trees are considered "good waste" and can easily be recycled at little cost, to be reused by residents for a positive environmental effect (mulch for new trees, under backyard play equipment, gardens, etc). Please drop trees off during daylight hours. This mulch material will be available in the Spring.

For more information, call the
City Forestry Department at 839-5039
or
Eau Claire County at 839-6190



Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Meetings are occasionally changed. To confirm, please call 839-4902.

City Council Broadcast Live

Legislative Meetings on second and fourth Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m.

Public Hearings on the Monday night before at 7:00 p.m.

City/County Board of Health

5:15 p.m. Fourth Wednesday

Housing Authority

7:45 a.m. Fourth Monday

Landmarks Commission

4:30 p.m. First Monday

Library Board

5:00 p.m. Third Thursday

Plan Commission Broadcast Live

7:00 p.m. First and Third Mondays

Police and Fire Commission

4:00 p.m. Third Thursday/Bi-monthly
(Jan/March/May/July/Sept/Nov)

Transit Commission

6:00 p.m. Third Wednesday

Waterways and Parks Commission

7:00 p.m. Fourth Wednesday

Other boards and commissions meet as needed. Public notices are posted and provided to the news media. The public is welcome at all meetings.

Agendas for City Council meetings are posted on the City Web site and shown on Community Television Basic Cable Channel 97 and Digital Cable Channel 994.

Rebroadcasts of the Council meetings are shown at 8 a.m. on Thursday and noon on Saturday the week of the meeting.

City Offices

EMERGENCY 9 - 1 - 1

Stay on the line!

(7-second delay while call is being traced)

(Ambulance • Fire • Police)

Community Information 839-5004

City Manager 839-4902

City Attorney 839-6006

Community Development 839-4914

Finance 839-6044

Fire Administration 839-5012

City-County Health 839-4718

Human Resources 839-4921

Library Administration 839-5002

Parks and Recreation 839-5032

Police Administration 839-4975

Public Works 839-4934

Questions about our City government or public meetings? Call 839-4902