



## City of Eau Claire

Economic Development  
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### Greetings!

As winter comes to a close and we look forward to the warm weather, we thought we would take a look back as several development projects around the City started becoming a reality this past winter. Eau Claire enjoyed an amazing amount of construction activity and the economy and sense of community are growing stronger by the minute!

Downtown Eau Claire Inc.(DECI) and the Eau Claire Noon Rotary Club have begun an effort to illuminate a city landmark. The City Council approved the parking changes downtown. The Confluence Project unveiled the design of the performing arts building! The City ranks among the best in Wisconsin for employment; area cities and counties are also performing well!

Check out Downtown Eau Claire, Inc.'s upcoming events (located on the side bar) and enjoy the following updates!

## \$500K Grant from State to Help Eau Claire Hotel



*An illustration of The Oxbow Hotel, 516 Galloway St., shows the facility's expansive exterior space.*

Plans to renovate a hotel in downtown Eau Claire are moving forward, thanks to much-needed funding assistance from a state agency and the city.

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. announced a \$500,000 Community Development Investment Grant for the city of Eau Claire to help fund the renovation of The Oxbow Hotel. Another \$250,000 no-interest loan will be added by the city as a 50 percent match requirement of the grant. The City Council formally accepted the grant.

A planned artist-in-residence program is being modeled after a similar effort at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee. Local entrepreneur Nick Meyer said that visiting artists will live in Eau Claire for months at a time and work inside an open glass enclosure in the hotel's lobby "to pollinate the local arts scene."

The Oxbow will also rent bicycles, tubes, canoes and kayaks to take advantage of a nearby bike trail and the Eau Claire and Chippewa Rivers.

Read more [here](#).

The Oxbow Hotel recently revealed a new restaurant and bar for locals and travelers to socialize at named The Lakely. The name comes from the city's lakes, rivers and logging history. The restaurant will open this summer. For more on the Lakely, follow the link [here](#).

## [Downtown Eau Claire, Inc.](#) 2016 Schedule of Events

**May 14**  
Our City Spring  
Clean Up

**August 6**  
Summer Fest &  
Family Night in the  
Park

**August 24**  
A Grand Evening  
on the Bridge

**September 17**  
International Fall  
Festival

**October 31**  
Trick-or-Treating

**December 2**  
Let it Glow!

**December 3**  
Christmastime in  
the City

## Downtown Parking Time Limit Expands



The City Council approved parking changes. Council approved exceptions on days when Eau Claire plows will be clearing all streets. On those days, the city will employ its "alternate-side" parking law from midnight to 5 p.m., which restricts parking to one side of the street.

The city plans to attach stickers to signs where the exception applies to notify motorists of where they can park and when, according to city engineer David Solberg. Read more [here](#).

## Groups Desire Lights to Brighten Bridge



Downtown Eau Claire Inc. (DECI) and the Eau Claire Noon Rotary Club have begun an effort to illuminate a city landmark in hopes it would draw more people downtown at night; a project that would add lights to shine on the Phoenix Park pedestrian bridge spanning the Chippewa River.



Mike Schatz, DECI's executive director, has seen what other cities have done, and said that illuminating the bridge has been among DECI staff's ideas to accentuate downtown and draw more people there.

Jerome Kuehl, the club's president and senior vice president at Northwestern bank said JAMF Software has been working with the group that has been exploring the bridge lighting.

Several City departments are included in drafting an operating agreement that the City Council will consider at a future meeting.

Read more [here](#).

## A Backyard Success in Eau Claire



On the west side of Eau Claire sits a business park that is home to many national and local companies. The Gateway Business Park is home to about 50 businesses. One of these businesses has seen great success and will be a catalyst in driving more business in this area and for their headquarters located in St. Paul, Minnesota. [Minnesota Wire](#) (MNWC) been in Eau Claire for thirty years and has owned their current Eau Claire location for just over eight years. Many citizens may not even know it exists let alone what they do as a business.

Minnesota Wire is a custom wire and cable manufacturer that provides cable to medical, defense and commercial industries in need of a custom solution. Recently the company released a new product which can be found in defibrillators, imaging, x-ray, MRI, and CT/CAT scans. This is a family run company and was started by Fred Wagner and is now run by his children Paul Wagner, CEO, Joan Thompson, Vice President, and Brian Wagner who has held several titles in their Eau Claire office.

If you talk to Danny Decker who has been a vital part of the growth over the past two years, he will tell how great of a company Minnesota Wire is being family based and dedicated to its employees and systematic processes. Decker came to this company two years ago with the purpose of improving processes and efficiency for the company. He has a diverse and extensive background that made him the right person for this task.

In 2015, Minnesota Wire saw an increase of revenue by 14 percent and this same growth pattern is expected to continue into 2016. Currently, the company has 175 employees and brought on an additional 35 associates last year due to a newly acquired defense contract. Last year 20 jobs were created and they expect to create 5 to 10 new jobs this year. Along with Decker's position as Director of Manufacturing, MNWC has added a new Director of Quality Assurance and a new Manager of Design Engineering over the last year. Improvements to the company didn't come without a major renovation on systematic processes for the company.

Decker credits these advances to the Deming Method; a method that was inspired by a W. Edwards Deming who founded the ideas of better design of products to improve service. Decker explained how the improvements were implemented to enforce more sustainable growth within the realm of products and services. This has not only had a positive effect on business, but also on those employed by Minnesota Wire.

This family owned business is making great strides in the defense, medical and other commercial industries. [Minnesota Wire](#) is also making positive impacts in the community of Eau Claire by creating jobs and providing a sustainable work environment.

## A Remake on Water Street Section



A demolition of seven buildings to make way for a mixed-use redevelopment project that would comprise much of the north side of the 200 block of Water Street. The building would consist of commercial businesses on the ground floor and apartments in two or three stories above, says Joe Miller, a real estate agent and property manager for Investment Realty.

The building would be built to appear as separate storefronts. For instance, different styles and patterns of brick could be used to give the building a more attractive look, he said. Plans call for work on the project to begin next summer with the goal of completing it in to two years.

Read more [here](#).

## Confluence Project Arts Center Design Unveiled





Plans for the Confluence Project building were on display at an afternoon news conference - nearly four years after the idea for an arts center intended for UW-Eau Claire and community arts groups were announced to the public. Project partners said plans for the arts center were developed during discussions with user groups and stakeholders over the course of 10 meetings with architect and engineering design teams led by Strang Inc. of Madison and Holzman Moss Bottino Architecture of New York City.

Set for land just south of where the Eau Claire River feeds into the Chippewa River, the arts center would be clad in black stone and green -patina copper. Windows with multiple panes would be 40 feet tall, and an overhang would wrap around the Graham Avenue side of the building Holzman Moss Bottino Architecture of New York and Strang of Madison worked on the building's design. Haymarket Landing, a six-story building with ground-floor storefronts and housing intended for about 375 university students, is seen on the left side of this rendering.

Read more [here](#) and at Eau Claire Leader-Telegram [here](#).

City Council recently approved the amendment to the general development plan clearing the last hurdle before the start of summer construction. The building will now be allowed overhangs and encroachments for an emergency electrical generator, a loading dock and trash facilities. For more on this story, read [here](#).

## Two Eateries Vying to Serve at Airport



The Chippewa Valley Regional Airport will again be home to a restaurant after representatives of two eateries expressed an interest in opening there.

The airport has not had a restaurant since Farm on Starr ceased operations there in October of 2014 which had opened in April of 2013. Earlier, Connell's II operated at the airport for many years.

Hangar 54 Grill will open in the spring by Bob Adrian who also owns

a business in Altoona. The Airport had received two proposals in December.

For more read [here](#) and [here](#).

## Lismore Eatery Plans Detailed





REP ARCHITECTS

*Dive, a bar that replaced the pool on the buildings second floor.*

The developers of The Lismore Hotel, a total renovation of the defunct downtown Ramada Convention Center on South Barstow Street, have set their plans for three food and beverage venues. Leading the food and beverage operation will be Terry Vajgrt, former owner of the Creamery in Downsville. Co-executive chefs will be Bradley Dean Parent and Luke Bilda. The beverage manager will be Sean Murphy, a Chippewa Falls native with more than 26 years of experience in the field.

Read more [here](#).

## Brew Pub Opens



Theresa Frank, who owns and manages Lazy Monk with her husband and brewer, Leos Frank. Leos is from Czech Republic and Theresa is from Altoona. They opened Lazy Monk in 2011 in Banbury Place, brewing German and Czech-style beers using hops and grains from those counties. In 2013, they took out a wall to increase the size of the tap room, but they soon needed more space.

Jim Zimmerman, who was there with three generations - his 14-year old granddaughter was having the tap root beer, said the brewery's previous location was hard to find. He said that having an expanded Lazy Monk downtown was good for the city's center and his wife like the Lazy Monk beer so much they have it on tap in refrigerators in their bard and garage.

At the new location, Lazy Monk will be opened seven days per week, rather than five, and will stay open until 11p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, an hour later than normal, but the brewery is trying to provide a different experience than a bar.

The Frank's are close to completion a newly built deck on the east side of the building where patrons can go out to enjoy the weather and the view of the Chippewa River.

Read more [here](#).

# Eau Claire Jobless Numbers Shine

City ranks among the best in Wisconsin for employment; area counties are also performing well. Wisconsin, national jobless rates also fall. To read more click [here](#).

## Office Furniture Available

Take advantage of this opportunity to get a well maintained office workstations.



There are many office furniture available in which approximately 60 workstations and most were made to be very large with huge work surfaces.

The furniture was maintained very well and shows excellent, lots of file cabinets, shelving and more.

If you are interested in buying the furniture, please contact Jeff Kobinsky from Spring Street Group Inc. at [kobinskyjj@gmail.com](mailto:kobinskyjj@gmail.com) before March 21, 2016.

## **WEDC Launches "Made In Wisconsin" Program**



WEDC Contact:

Kelly Lietz, 608.210.6858 [kelly.lietz@wedc.org](mailto:kelly.lietz@wedc.org)

### **WEDC LAUNCHES "MADE IN WISCONSIN" PROGRAM**

*Where it's made matters*

**MADISON, WI. Feb. 25, 2016**-Companies operating in Wisconsin now have a new tool-an official "Made In Wisconsin" logo-to help market the origin and quality of their products, thanks to a new program from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC).

"When we say a product is made in Wisconsin, that's saying more than just where it was produced," said Kelly Lietz, WEDC's vice president of marketing, speaking at the Manufacturing Matters! Conference in Milwaukee. "It speaks to the attributes of the product itself. It's a reflection of the quality of our natural resources and the honesty, hard work and innovative minds of our people."

WEDC introduced the In Wisconsin® brand in 2012 to provide a platform for marketing business opportunities and successes in the state. "We've always recognized the potential for the brand to reach a much wider audience through the cooperative efforts of Wisconsin businesses," said Lietz.

Lietz points out that WEDC is approached regularly by companies interested in displaying a "Made In Wisconsin" logo on their products. WEDC worked with a small number of Wisconsin companies that approached the agency with this request to develop a pilot program that included the necessary application process steps and logo options.

Alan Petelinsek, owner of Sussex-based Power Test and a pilot program participant, said, "The Made In Wisconsin label shows the pride that has gone into our products. Letting people know that they are produced in Wisconsin helps us share that our



Letting people know that they are produced in Wisconsin helps us share that our work is done with a level of craftsmanship that is widely known and appreciated."

The Made In Wisconsin logo can be adapted to reflect applicants' production processes. Options include:

- Made In Wisconsin
- Manufactured In Wisconsin
- Produced In Wisconsin
- Built In Wisconsin
- Grown In Wisconsin
- Invented In Wisconsin
- Designed In Wisconsin
- Engineered In Wisconsin
- Brewed In Wisconsin

There is no cost to use the logo. Companies that wish to participate fill out a simple application stating how they will use the logo and certifying that the product or service on which they seek to use the mark fulfills program requirements. Once an application is approved, the company can download high-resolution image files for the specified use.

The Made In Wisconsin Program complements the Wisconsin Department of Trade, Agriculture and Consumer Protection's Something Special From Wisconsin™ Program, offering companies two ways to show their state pride. For more information, visit [Made.InWisconsin.com](http://Made.InWisconsin.com).

### **About the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation**

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) leads economic development efforts for the state by advancing Wisconsin's business climate. Together with more than 600 regional and local business development partners, it represents a highly responsive and coordinated network. Visit [www.inwisconsin.com](http://www.inwisconsin.com) or follow WEDC on Twitter @\_InWisconsin to learn more.

## **Follow us on Facebook!**

The City of Eau Claire's Economic Development Division is now on Facebook! To follow us and receive up-to-date developments going on in Eau Claire, "like" us by clicking [here](#)!



We hope you found this newsletter helpful and informative. For more up-to-date news visit us online: [www.EauClaireDevelopment.com](http://www.EauClaireDevelopment.com)

Sincerely,

Mike Schatz  
City of Eau Claire Economic Development

Every day the City of Eau Claire Economic Development Division offers low-interest loans (60% of the Prime Rate as published by the Wall Street Journal) to businesses expanding or relocating within the Eau Claire Area. [http://www.eauclaireddevelopment.com/doing\\_business/assistance.html](http://www.eauclaireddevelopment.com/doing_business/assistance.html)

