



Our mission is to grow local businesses, facilitate expansions, and recruit outside businesses to locate in Eau Claire in order to increase the quality of living, add well-paying jobs and grow the tax base.

The Eau Claire Economic News is back!

After a brief hiatus, the City of Eau Claire Economic Development Division's Economic Newsletter is back in business! Despite the cooling temperatures, there is no doubt that Eau Claire is hot right now!

[Downtown Eau Claire](#) continues its revival, with the opening of [The Lismore Hotel](#) (including The Informalist Restaurant, The Dive Bar, and ECDC), [Haymarket Landing](#), the [North Barstow Parking Ramp](#), and [The Oxbow Hotel & The Lakely](#) all in the last 6 months. The [Wisconsin Economic Development Association](#) held their [Fall Conference](#) in Downtown Eau Claire, at the same time of the groundbreaking for the [Confluence Arts Center](#) and Visit Eau Claire's Music Summit in early October.

Development continues throughout the City as the [mixed-use project](#) on Water Street is beginning to take shape, and American Engineering Concepts builds in the Sky Park Industrial Park. FedEx Ground opened a brand-new 163,000+ sq. ft. distribution center in the Gateway Business Park this summer as well. The [Marshfield Clinic Cancer Center](#) project continues the approval process, and interest continues in "[Block 7](#)" in the North Barstow Redevelopment District. Meanwhile, the Redevelopment Authority has spent much of the year working on planning for the [Cannery District](#).

All this and more will continued to be covered in this monthly newsletter and our [Facebook page](#), as well as information on the month's happenings! We hope you enjoy this new look and thank you for reading!

October 2016 Building Permits Summary Report

Eau Claire's Middle Class and Affordable Cost of Living

As of September 2016, the City's unemployment rate improved to just 2.9%, according to the [State of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development](#). As reported by [The Leader Telegram](#), this was the fourth lowest of the State's 32 largest cities.

The experience of many students at the Chippewa Valley Technical College's [Fall Career Fair](#) shows that it is a job seeker's market in many cases. Nationally, the Labor Department reports 1.4 unemployed workers per job opening in September, which usually is evidence of a [healthy job market](#).



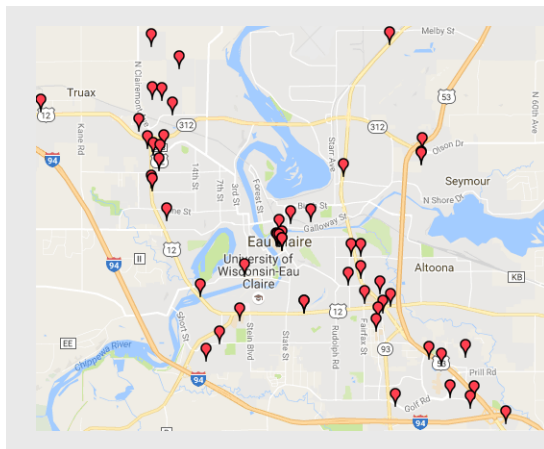
This is all happening as the Eau Claire Metropolitan Area is ranked in the Top 10 nationally

for the largest middle class sizes. [A report](#) from earlier this year showed that 61% of area adults live in middle-income households, as compared to 51% nationally.



THE COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY
AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH

Finally, the [Cost of Living Index](#) for the Third Quarter of 2016 scored the Eau Claire Metropolitan Area at just 95.3% of the national average. Comparatively, the Madison Metro was rated at 108.1% and Milwaukee at 99.4%.



Looking for a sale or lease opportunity?

Check out our properties database where you can search by property type, square footage, sale or lease, and downtown.

[Property Search](#)

Have a building to lease or property to sell?
[Contact us](#) - listings are free!

November Calendar of Events

Wednesday, November 9

[Women's Business Networking Event](#), 5:30pm at ClubMTC: Chippewa Valley's Makerspace, 128 West River Street, Chippewa Falls. [Registration](#) is \$5 per person.

[Musky TankMixer - Riding the Growth Curve](#), 6:30pm-8:30pm at The Forage, Banbury Place, Eau Claire. [Registration](#) is free.

Thursday, November 10

[Disaster Response & Recovery: How Can My Business Fit In?](#), 8:30am-12:00pm at Building D2, Eau Claire Conference Room, Banbury Place, Eau Claire. [Registration](#) is \$10 for DRCV members.

[Secure and Cost Effective Credit and Debit Card Payment](#), 12:00pm at the Dairyland Community Action Agency, 418 Wisconsin Street, Eau Claire. [Registration](#) is \$15 per person.

Saturday, November 12

[Start a Small Business in 8 Steps](#), 9:00am at the Dairyland Community Action Agency, 418 Wisconsin Street, Eau Claire. [Registration](#) is \$29 per person.

Tuesday, November 15

1st Annual [Entrepreneurs' Conference](#), 1:00pm-5:00pm at The Florian Gardens Conference Center, 2340 Lorch Avenue, Eau Claire. [Registration](#) is free.

Wednesday, November 16

[City of Eau Claire Redevelopment Authority](#), 7:30am at City Hall, 203 South Farwell Street, Eau Claire. [Committee webpage](#).

[Manufacturing Grant Program Round Table Discussion](#), 9:00am-10:30am at General Beer Northwest, Chippewa Falls. [Informational flyer](#).

[Mechanics of Starting a Small Business](#), 6:30pm-8:30pm at the Barron County Government Center, 335 East Monroe Avenue, Barron, WI, 2nd Floor, UW-Extension Conference Room. [Registration](#) is \$29 per person.

Friday, November 18

[Eggs & Issues: State Economy & Budget Update With Todd Berry](#), 7:00am-8:30am, Clarion Hotel, 2703 Craig Road, Eau Claire. [Registration](#) is \$20 per person.

Tuesday, November 29

Lunch & Learn: How Will The Millennials Affect OurFuture Workforce?, 12:00pm-1:00pm, Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce, PESI Conference Room, 101 North Farwell Street, Eau Claire. [Registration](#) is \$20 per person for Chamber members.

Financial Assistance Available

The City of Eau Claire Economic Development Division offers low-interest loans to businesses expanding or relocating within the Eau Claire area. Check out the [Financial Assistance](#) page on our website for more information!

Regional Business Fund

In September, the [Regional Business Fund](#) Board of Directors approved a new [Growth Loan Fund](#), which targets newly formed businesses who are looking to grow but cannot obtain conventional financing. Check out the link for more information!

Other recent changes that impact the City of Eau Claire include (1) increasing the Micro Loan program's maximum loan amount from \$25,000 to \$30,000 and (2) decreasing the Facade Loan program's term from 15 years to 7 years.

Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

In October, the [Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation](#) (WEDC) opened a second round of Fabrication Laboratories Grant Program funding. Applications must be received or postmarked by December 15, 2016. This program provides grants to public school districts for up to \$25,000 to create these high-technology workshops, known as "Fab Labs". More information can be found on the [WEDC website](#).

Follow us on Facebook!

For up-to-date news about the Eau Claire business community and economy, "Like" us on [Facebook!](#)



[Visit our website](#)

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