

Holiday Season Begins

Downtown Eau Claire has been the center of holiday activity for over 150 years, and 2005 is no different. The decorations are up, music is playing in the streets and shoppers are finding unique gifts for those special people in their lives.

The annual **Dicken's of a Christmas** event is scheduled for Thursday, December 1, 2005. The event features:

- Dinner with Santa Claus at Pizza Plus Eatery (5:00-6:30 p.m.)
- FREE horse drawn wagon rides (5:30-8:30 p.m.)
- Lighting of the Victorian Christmas tree (7:00 p.m.)
- Bonfire (5:30-8:30 p.m.)
- An official Red Ryder BB gun will be given away, compliments of Greater Midwest Mercantile (7:00 p.m.)
- Victorian Madrigal signers (7:15 p.m.)
- and much more!

The Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce and Eau Claire Economic Development Corporation are also planning grand opening at their new offices at 101 N Farwell Street the same evening. Plan on attending this fun, family event and kicking off the holiday season downtown.



2005 Baseline Report

Downtown Eau Claire, Inc. recently completed the 2005 baseline report for downtown. This report tracks property assessment, property taxes, number of businesses, number of employees and vacancy rates in the downtown area. Here are some of the results for 2005:

Property Assessment
\$137 million (6% increase from 2004)

Property Taxes Collected
\$3 million (5% increase from 2004)

Number of Businesses
487 (10% increase from 2004)

Number of Employees
6,977 (3% increase from 2004)

Downtown Events

Thursday, December 1
Dinner with Santa Claus at Pizza Plus Eatery. 5:00-6:30pm.
Dicken's of a Christmas Event in the Four Corners Parking Lot. FREE horse drawn wagon rides from 5:30-8:30pm. Tree lighting at 7pm.
Running Water Poetry Slam 5th Annual Fabulous Grand Slam at Acoustic Café. 7pm
Halloween Alaska at The Stone's Throw. 10pm
Friday, December 2
Pat McCurdy at the Stone's Throw. 10pm
Saturday, December 3
Drift Effect, The Lid, and Murge at the Stone's Throw. 9pm
Thursday, December 8
Vertigo Joe, Matt Marka Band, and Alicia Wiley at the Stone's Throw. 10pm
Friday, December 9
A Christmas Story presented by CVTG at the State Theatre. 7:30pm, please call 832-PLAY for tickets.
All the Pretty Horses, Regimen Rong, Erica Wilder at the Stone's Throw. 10pm
Saturday, December 10
A Christmas Story presented by CVTG at the State Theatre. 7:30pm, please call 832-PLAY for tickets.
Hope for the Holidays featuring Matt Wahl, Point B, Thomas Built the Wall, and Radio On at the Stone's Throw. 6pm
Sunday, December 11
A Christmas Story presented by CVTG at the State Theatre. 1:30pm, please call 832-PLAY for tickets.
Art Exhibit by Linda Day and Bruce Dunlap Opening Reception at L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library. 2-3:30pm
Tuesday, December 13
Open Reception Art Show by Linda Day and Bruce Dunlap at L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library. 7-8pm
Wednesday, December 14
Progressive Book Club at L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library. 7-8pm
Friday, December 16
Jim Pullman Band and Tommy Benny Band at the Stone's Throw. 10pm
Saturday, December 17
A Christmas Carol at the State Theatre. 7:30pm, please call 832-ARTS for tickets.
Broken Home at the Stone's Throw. 10pm
Thursday December 22
NYCO at the Stone's Throw. 10pm
Friday December 23
Chattahoochee Soul Food Reunion Show at the Stone's Throw. 10pm
Thursday December 29
Mighty Short Bus and Smokin' Bandits at the Stone's Throw. 10pm
Friday, December 30
Pete Neuman and The Real Deal at the Stone's Throw. 10pm
Saturday, December 31
Mojo Lemon's Last Show Ever at the Stone's Throw. 10pm

December 2005 Please visit DECI's website for meeting specifics and additional downtown events: www.downtown-eauclaire.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Dickens of a Christmas	2	3
4	5	6	7 DECI Board 7:30 AM	8	9	10
11	12	13 Arts Mtg 9:00 AM	14 Business Mtg 7:30 AM	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Winter begins	22	23	24
25 Christmas	26 Hannukkah Kwanzaa	27	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve

2006 Budget Set by City Council

On November 15, 2005, the Eau Claire City Council approved a two-year budget for city operations. This budget includes funding for Downtown Eau Claire, Inc. The budget in 2006 is \$87,700 and the recommended budget for 2007 is \$78,900. This amount includes salary for 1.5 staff members, benefits packages, advertising, office supplies and all other line items for the non-profit organization. The Downtown BID contributes an additional \$25,000 per year to DECI.

Downtown Eau Claire, Inc. is grateful for the continued support of the Eau Claire City Council and is looking forward to the next two years.

So Long, Farewell

A very special thank you and farewell to **Micki Foster** and **Deb Foster** at From the Beginning. The craft store will close its doors on December 3rd, after 28 years downtown. Micki and Deb have been great downtown supporters, including coordinating the International Fall Festival for many years and ordering the flowers that grace the streets. The recent addition of holiday decorations along South Barstow Street are a result of the hard work of these two great ladies. Micki is looking forward to all that retirement has in store for her. Deb will remain active in the downtown, while serving on the DECI and BID Boards. Thank you for your years of hard work and dedication!

Marsha Tanula, Communications & Promotions Coordinator, has accepted a position in Menomonie at the Red Cedar Medical Center. Marsha was on staff with the City of Eau Claire, helping DECI, for the last four years. Good luck!

BOARD MEMBERS**President**

Charlie Grossklaus
RCU

Vice President

John Dickey
Luther/Midelfort

Secretary

Paula Kimbllin
Third Ward Neighborhood

Treasurer

Teresa O'Halloran
Ruder Ware LLSC

Presidential Appointee

Ken Van Es
Eau Claire YMCA

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Dave Adler
Eau Claire City Council

Marlene Arnston
Randall Park Neighborhood

Toby Biegel
City Council Member

Stan Carpenter
Third Ward Neighborhood

Marty Fisher-Blakeley
West Grand Ave BID

Deb Foster
Downtown BID

Bill Gray
DiscoverNet

Mike Huggins
City of Eau Claire

Dennis Jenson
Eau Claire County

Robert Krause
Corporate Technologies

Jen Roth
Eau Claire Regional Arts Council

Bernie Trettin
North River Fronts Neighborhood

Janine Wildenberg
Redevelopment Authority

Executive Director

Mike Schatz
City of Eau Claire

Business Assistance Specialist

Tiffany Richter
City of Eau Claire

Quick Tax Tips for the End of the Year

As the holidays quickly approach, it's hardly a time to think about small business taxes. But a quick look at these year-end tax tips for small business can pay big dividends for 2006.

- 1. Update Your Accounting:** It's important as part of your year-end tax strategy to have a good understanding of your company's financial situation. Spend extra time ensuring your books are up-to-date and accurate. It won't hurt to plan time with your accountant for year-end advice, particular to your operations.
- 2. Defer Income:** Any payments your company can receive during the first week of January as opposed to December cuts your tax bill. Every cent earned up to December 31st, 2005 has taxes paid in April 2005; whereas income deferred to January 2006, will not owe taxes until April 2007. Of course, any deferral strategy will depend on your profit and losses for the year and your corporate legal structure. Don't forget to push any early 2006 charitable donations back to 2005. Make sure you get a receipt for the tax deduction.
- 3. Increase Expenses:** Purchase items your business will require in the immediate future to maximize deductions for this year. If you can see a need for goods and services in the first quarter of the new year, buy them now, if cash flow permits. Consider the following items for expenses: Office Supplies, Pay Bills Early, Equipment Purchases Inventory Write-Offs, and Contribute to a Retirement Plan

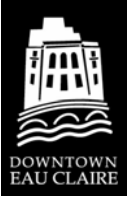
Source: www.about.com

New Business Update

Brickhouse Music recently opened at 203 Gibson Street. The music store provides guitars, amps, and musical instruments for beginners to professionals. They have a second store in River Falls to provide them with a large inventory. The company is owned by Eric Thompson and Kyle Skarich.

Carols Cozy Creations & Consignments has opened at 122 S. Barstow St. They feature quality handmade polar fleece items, hats, mittens, scarves, blankets, etc. They also feature quality consignment items, custom sewing, alterations, and upholstery. The company is owned by Carol Deetz.

Willow Creek Women's Clinic will be open in December on the ground floor of 130 S. Barstow. The clinic is a unique place for women to receive conventional healthcare, integrative medical therapy, and education. Linda Poirier, who plans on giving women a comfortable and caring environment to discuss and treat primary health concerns, owns the clinic.



Downtown Eau Claire, Inc.

203 S. Farwell St
P.O. Box 5148
Eau Claire, WI 54702-5148

Phone: 715-839-4914 Fax: 715-839-4939
www.downtown-eauclaire.com

Downtown Eau Claire, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the development of business, housing and cultural resources and activities within Downtown Eau Claire.



Courthouse Charmer



767 2nd Avenue

This office/retail space has plenty of charm in a great location. Located steps from the County Courthouse, it is perfect for a small office or retail business.

- Currently divided into reception area, two office areas and two restrooms
- Property owner willing to convert it into an open floor plan
- All utilities and parking are included
- Around the corner from Grand Avenue Café and Grooming Hut
- Lease terms are negotiable

If you are interested in this location or any other downtown location, please contact Mike Schatz at (715) 839-4914 .

