

From: [Moheznizky, Hannah](#)
Subject: The E: December 2025
Date: Friday, December 5, 2025 1:18:39 PM
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THE E.

A newsletter for the Engineering Division



December 2025 Issue

A message from your City Engineer

As 2025 is coming to an end, I want to once again thank all of you for another incredible, accomplished year in the Engineering Division. Through all of your hard work, we've completed an incredible amount of work including a number of major projects, along with continued maintenance efforts to protect City investments, ensure reliable service, and protect public health and the environment. This work brings a lot of respect not only to our Division, but to the City, and we should all be incredibly proud of the work that has been done over the last year. I know I am.

On a more personal note, I think a lot of you are already aware of this, but I will be out of the office soon on the remainder of my parental leave. I'll be available on a part time basis through December, but then fully out of the office in January and into mid-February. While I'm away, Kathy Cryan will be leading the Engineering Division, and Bryan Cooper, Chris Petykowksi, and Greg Fries will be assisting with additional coverage, too. I'm excited and very grateful to have this opportunity to bond with our baby. Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year to all of you!

-Jim

City Adopts 2026 Budget

The Madison Common Council approved a capital and operating budget for 2026. The adopted City Budget has the lowest tax rate in at least 40 years. The City's portion of property tax bills will increase by around \$2.50 a month or just \$30 annually on an average valued home. This is below the rate of inflation and nearly \$5 million below the maximum allowed under the state's levy limit. Read more about budget in the City's news release:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/news/2025-11-11/city-of-madison-adopts-2026-budget>

2026 Winter Salt Week Set, Save Livestreams Jan. 26-30

FRESHWATER SALINIZATION
Causes, Consequences, and Trends
MONDAY, JANUARY 26
12:30-1:00PM CT
Dr. Wendy Berry
Dr. Shaw Grant

SALT WISE STORIES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27
12:30-1:00PM CT
Paula Johnson
Arion Robinson

SMART SALTING CONTRACTS
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28
12:30-1:00PM CT
Wendy Berry
Jim Turkin

ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS
THURSDAY, JANUARY 29
12:30-1:00PM CT
Cornel Cornin
Walt Mezon

ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE
FRIDAY, JANUARY 30
11:00AM-12:00PM CT
CONVERSATION TABLE
Avery Sullivan
Mary Rooney

SALT MONITORING 101
FRIDAY, JANUARY 30
12:00-1:00PM CT
CONVERSATION TABLE
Laurin Linton
Paige Scovilla

Learn more on <https://wintersaltweek.org/>

Equity Blurp: December 2025

Engineering Equity Team will be looking for a few new members in 2026 to fill slots vacated by staff that have completed their terms and are rotating out. Please email Danielle and Stephen if you're interested or if you have questions.

2025 Citywide Survey Results

Erin Hilson, City of Madison Human Resources Director

Thank you for your support of the completion of the 2025 employee survey. We achieved 61% response rate in large thanks to your support and coordination. Stay tuned for results.

Department/Division	# Complete as of Survey Close	FTE + LTE	Online Response Rate	Count HOURLY Employees	Paper Copies	All Surveys	All Surveys Response rate
ASSESSOR	23	25	92%	0		23	92%
ATTORNEY	26	26	100%	0		26	100%
BUILDING INSPECTION	45	45	100%	0		45	100%
CDA HOUSING OPERATIONS	41	51	80%	0		41	80%
CIVIL RIGHTS	18	22	82%	3		18	82%
CLERK	13	12	108%	23		13	108%
COMMON COUNCIL	5	5	100%	0		5	100%
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	36	37	97%	7		36	97%
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	17	20	85%	0		17	85%
EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	3	4	75%	0		3	75%
ENGINEERING	137	185	74%	18		137	74%
FINANCE	40	48	83%	2		40	83%
FIRE	146	447	33%	5		146	33%
FLEET SERVICES	27	32	84%	5		27	84%
HUMAN RESOURCES	24	21	114%	2		24	114%
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	54	51	106%	12		54	106%
LIBRARY	172	142	121%	130		172	121%
MAYOR	12	13	92%	0		12	92%
METRO TRANSIT	91	487	19%	2	10	101	21%
MONONA TERRACE CONVENTION CENT	50	52	96%	309		50	96%
MUNICIPAL COURT	5	4	125%	1		5	125%
OFFICE OF THE IND MONITOR	2	2	100%	0		2	100%
PARKING	54	90	60%	16	8	62	69%
PARKS	106	155	68%	136		106	68%
PCED OFFICE OF DIRECTOR	4	4	100%	0		4	100%
PLANNING	33	34	97%	2		33	97%
POLICE	312	600	52%	3		312	52%
STREETS	107	235	46%	16	57	164	70%
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING	74	67	110%	72		74	110%
TRANSPORTATION	16	4	400%	0	9	25	625%
WATER	75	126	60%	3		75	60%
Grand Total	1768	3046	58%	860	84	1852	61%

Engineering's Bill Drum Earns #TeamCity Award

Written Mayor Remarks

Engineering's Bill Drum earned the #TeamCity Health & Public Safety award. Jon Evans, Crystal Martin, and Stephen King nominated Bill with a big vote of support from the Sustainability Team. Bill manages Engineering's mechanic and facilities team. He's

responsible for ensuring many city facilities are operating efficiently and effectively. He's also a skilled tradesperson with excellent mechanical aptitude. Bill earned this award, in part, because of the outstanding job he did fixing a complicated problem that had persisted for years at the Police Training Center. The problem: The gun range at the training center was having significant downtime because of heating and filter issues. Bill reviewed the issue, diagnosed the problem and developed creative solutions. Working with his team, Bill found a way to correct airflow and heating issues and Engineering anticipates future filter changes to be cut in half — which will save the City hundreds of thousands of dollars per year. Bill is an excellent communicator and an outstanding team leader. He's also served the City faithfully for several decades with a long stint at Metro Transit and more recently with Engineering.

Thank you for your service, Bill, and congratulations!



City Bowling Tournament in New Location, Sign Up Open!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10TH
2 SHIFTS: 12PM & 3:30PM
UP TO 36 TEAMS EACH SHIFT

SCHWOEGLER PARK LANES
444 GRAND CANYON DR.



CITY OF MADISON EMPLOYEES' 39TH ANNUAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

SOME IMPORTANT CHANGES:

After receiving numerous complaints about staffing issues at Bowl-A-Vard lanes over the past years, the bowling committee has decided to **move the tournament to Schwogler Park Towne Lanes** on Madison's west side. This switch comes with some changes:

- There will be 36 lanes available per shift instead 40 lanes
- The cost will increase to \$15/person or \$75/team but **will include a FREE 2-two topping 16" pizza or a bucket of beer.**
- No outside food will be allowed. This is a policy that all bowling alleys, including Bowl-A-Vard Lanes, have put in place.

<p>\$15 PER BOWLER \$75 PER TEAM Includes one 2-topping 16" pizza or bucket of beer and shoes, if needed.</p>	<p>8-PIN TAP BOWL Door prizes and cash prizes will be awarded during bowling, high score prizes for top bowlers, and a plaque for the winning team.</p>
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To enter, return the completed reservation form, along with the entry fee of \$75, to Madison Credit Union. **Entries will close on December 19th.**

We will again collect items and donations for the **Second Harvest Food Bank.**

It's that time again, for the **39th Annual City Employees' Bowling Tournament!**

We're excited to announce a few changes to this year's tournament. It was with a lot of deliberation that the Bowling Committee has decided to **change locations from Bowl-A-Vard Lanes to Schwogler Park Lanes.** After numerous complaints from bowlers over the past couple of years about poor service and, at times, an unwelcome atmosphere, we will be moving the tournament to Schwogler Park Lanes. We believe this change will make for a much better experience. **Schwogler Park Lanes** has guaranteed us **full service at the bar and restaurant, plus two dedicated lane servers.** The bar area will also be open for anyone who wants to come early or hang out afterward — and in future years, we'll even have the option to feature a **live band** for entertainment! Due

to inflation and the venue change, **the team entry fee has increased from \$50 to \$75**. However, we've negotiated a little perk — each team will get a free bucket of beer or a free 16" 2-topping pizza per lane. **Outside food will no longer be permitted**. This was a change that would have affected us wherever we held the tournament. As always, we'll be holding a **50/50 raffle** and collecting **donations for Second Harvest Foodbank**.

Attached, you'll find a flyer and a fillable entry form. Paper copies will also be sent out for those without city email access. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to rlaurysens@madisoncu.com

Media Roundup

Blogs

- [Plant of the Week: Lead Plant](#)

News Releases

- [John Nolen Drive Reconstruction Project Enters Stage 2 on November 24](#)
- [Portion of Milwaukee Street Closed to Through Traffic on November 20](#)
- [Update: N Franklin Avenue & Lynn Terrace Reconstruction with Utilities Project](#)
- [Temporary Perry Street Closure Begins Monday, November 10](#)
- [Gorham Street Lane Closures](#)
- [John Nolen Drive -- Overnight Left Turn Closure to Broom Street](#)

City News Conferences

- [News Conference: World Day of Remembrance November 12, 2025](#)

All Hands Videos

- [2025 City of Madison Engineering Division All Hands Meeting](#)
- [Life of a Sanitary Sewer](#)
- [City of Madison Engineering Division Thank You 2025](#)
- [City of Madison Engineering Division: Pheasant Branch Enhancement Project](#)

Section Updates

Each month, Engineering Division City Engineer Jim Wolfe leads a section head meeting. Each month in The E, we will share main points for employees to know what was discussed on important topics that impact employees division-wide. This is to improve better internal communication between leadership and staff. This is separate from official meeting minutes.

Division Communications

Hannah Mohelnitzky, Engineering Division Public Information Officer

I will be working on our Engineering accessibility web project from now until my holiday vacation. I'll be gone until the new year starting Dec. 15. Please try to get your web updates in to ENGweb@cityofmadison.com before, and any after will be handled by admin.

I won't be back until Jan. 12, 2026. Thank you to everyone who follows all of our Communications processes from PIMs, to web updates to everything in between!

Public Works and Private Development

Chris Petykowski, Deputy City Engineer, Public Works and Private Development

Public works engineers are working on design and approvals for 2026 projects. Private development Engineers and Managers continue to service contracts and issue plan sets. Plans issued this month include 320 S Brearly, 114 E Wilson, Starkweather Plat, and 4575 Helgesen. Public Meetings for 2026 projects have begun and were held on Elmside & Cannonball Path Ph 6. Milwaukee St went to Transportation Commission to provide guidance on the future design. John Nolen Dr construction has begun and construction on South Bound Bridges will continue over the winter.

Facilities Management

Bryan Cooper, Deputy City Engineer, Facilities Services and Management

- Construction Phase > [CDA Truax Apartments Solar PV](#), [State Street Campus Garage Mixed Use Development](#), [Bartillon Shelter](#), [WPCRC Expansion](#), [CCB – DCR Offices](#), [Olin Waste Transfer Waste Drop-off Site](#), [South Madison Demolitions & Site Restorations](#), [East Streets Maintenance Facility Fire Sprinkler Replacement](#), [Imagination Center at Reindahl Park](#), [Village on Park - Site Improvements](#), [Fire Station 8 Lighting Retrofit](#), [Dairy Dr Campground Demolition and Site Restoration](#), [Engineering Services Building Locker Room Renovation](#)
- Design Phase > [Streets Division - Far West Operations Building](#), [Central Library Lighting Retrofit](#), [Metro Transit Phase 3B – Admin and Dispatch Facility Improvements](#)
- Planning Phase > [Madison Police Department – South District and Police Evidence Operations](#), [Parks Yahara Golf Maintenance Facility](#), [Utility Materials Handling Site](#)

Operations – Sewer and Stormwater Utilities

Jay Pare, Infrastructure Training Program Supervisor (MIT-E)

Operations crews are busy wrapping up projects in preparation for winter. Vactor AC's should be completed by the time this newsletter gets sent out, and November PM's are right on track.

CCTV crews have pretty much completed their CMOM goal for the year and worked through a bunch of shortliners. The airport has been a big topic lately and Jason is diligently working with them to get lines cleaned, televised, and repairs scheduled.

Patch crews joined forces and completed all the asphalt patches on the books, and MITE had a very productive season. Construction crews are done with waterways for the season and getting ready to battle the cold and snow. Point repairs and dredging projects will be the focus as the frost sets in.

Greenway crews are still busy mulching, cutting, and hauling brush. Mowing was very successful this year with less than 2% of mows left. Once the ground firms up they will most likely finish completely.

Stormwater

Janet Schmidt, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

Winter is just around the corner but we still have some projects that are still under construction. Stricker's pond forebay is progressing nicely with the dredge work starting and some of the catchbasins finishing up. Looking forward to seeing that cleaned up! The Northeast Pond near Sun Prairie is still under construction – shoreline rebuild is scheduled to be completed by mid to late December. Capital City Path Storm Sewer is going to be wrapping up in December as well. It will be great to get that project done! Looking into next year we have a few large projects that will be bidding, including the Manitou Way Box Culvert Extension- Ph 2, West Towne Ponds and the MMSD Drying Bed off of Moorland Road. Mineral Point Road should be bidding soon and with that a huge tunnel project. Since the 2026 Budget was just approved in mid-November we will be starting up on the 2027 budget soon. It never ends. Last but not least, Kyle's group is starting the greenway inspections as soon as other construction projects wind down for the season. This will be helpful to have the information for budgeting purposes in the future.

Sanitary Sewer

Mark Moder, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

The 2025 City street projects that include sewer replacement are now complete or nearing completion. The 2026 street projects are now assigned or are now under design. Our next infill private apartment development where we have sewer infrastructure impacts (new offsite sewer) is 1617 Sherman Ave. We have permitting from one of the two railroads for the sewer crossing from Formden to E. Johnson St., but we are still waiting for the Canadian Pacific Railroad. This is a priority project given that the apartment on Sherman Ave. will be occupied this summer. Lift Stations Projects: Truax L.S.: We continue to have ongoing problems with the lift station shutting down because of power problems to the lift station. We continue to review solutions. The Badger Lift Station Replacement plans are now nearing completion, but we need to obtain easements prior to bidding. This will be 2026 construction. Mayflower L.S. is now under design for 2026 construction with the Badger Road CDA redevelopment. Finally, we are going through the process of hiring a consultant group for the City-wide sanitary sewer model which will be underway in 2026. The Citywide sewer model will be a great tool for our department to provide an up-to-date status of how our collection system is operating and where we need to make improvements to keep our high level of service for our customers. Finally, thank you everyone for a very productive 2025. It was a busy year especially with private development. I hope that everyone has a great holiday season and look forward to 2026.

Land Information/Official Map

Jeff Quamme, Section Manager

- Storm Water Billing script data - staff will be verifying directly inconsistent data to allow the script file to correctly tabulate the data for billing. This is a December priority.
- Continued work on the N-S BRT acquisitions, title and Transportation Project Plat support and review from Fitchburg to the far north side. Three different sections to review.
- Always providing support for multiple engineering projects with research, easements, title and solutions regarding needs to accomplish many City projects.
- Real Estate projects, vacations, research and relocation orders for several engineering, planning, transportation and water projects
- 911 Address Point population is ongoing along with all other addressing demands throughout the City.
- Private development still going strong. Many of the projects affect all facets of the Land Information group. (Addressing, reviews, storm water, official mapping, real estate projects, eminent domain projects, coordination of utility rights and agreements, etc)
- Mapping for future areas of Blooming Grove to move in earnest beginning next month.
- Targeting bringing up to a few days lag all new documents researched daily in house and populated in our mapping.
- Updating of areas in need of adjustment spatially that are not accurately mapped as they are discovered with new land divisions.

Engineering Technology

Candice Kasprzak, Engineering Technology Manager

- Still working on getting Address Point and storm billing workflows to work with new CAMA system (so close)
- Start testing Address Point workflows in ArcPro with attribute rules
- Programming into ACC private development workflows such as Authorization to Proceed and tracking expenses against deposits. Did initial demo to the private development group to gain feedback
- Finalized SewerAI workflows CityWorks and using it for both CCTV and coding
- Wrapping up CityWorks upgrade with IT
- Working on getting all of the CityWorks reporting into SQL and SSRS.
- Wrapping up all of the PW front end contract documentation automated where possible, and into ACC. Supporting ACC Assets for gathering field quantities on construction projects
- Researching BIM for facilities into CityWorks
- Working on developing GIS Consortium with other GIS agencies and IT to help manage and create governance around workflows and processes in the City to make tasks more efficient.
- Ongoing
- Setting up CAD standards, templates and efficiency improvements
- Data Governance – Working on data training. Looking at City-wide data warehouse.
- E911 Addressing Points with Dane County
- Misc CityWorks updates and maintenance
- Sanitary & Storm record updates – working on sanitary and storm backlog

Administration Staff

Johanna Johnson, Jenna Webb, Heidi Zigler

December's deadline for Common Council resolutions was 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec.2 (CC meeting 12/9.) Board of Public Works resolutions are due by 12 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 10 (BPW meeting 12/17).

Finance

Steve Danner-Rivers, Financial Manager

The Finance Section continues to be busy with all the typical day to day accounting tasks. The 2026 Capital and Operating Budgets have now been adopted so things are calming down a little until we begin our most hectic period of year end close and external audit preparation. We continue to focus on the preparatory tasks to close out the year including reviewing of open POs, closing out public and private contracts and doing any billings now to allow them to be paid by the end of the year. Any consultant contracts should also be reviewed to see if they need to be extended before they expire (once they expire, there is no longer a contract to amend!). For those in our Operations and Facilities Maintenance sections, please make keeping up on closing out work orders a priority. All efforts to help with these tasks are greatly appreciated.

Here are some items to think about as we head toward the end of 2025 and beginning of 2026:

- Requisitions for 2026 Purchase Orders can begin being entered on 12/16/25. This would be for items to be received after 1/1/26 or services to be rendered after 1/1/26 only. Remember it is the date the items or services are received that matters, not the date when the items/services are invoiced.
- We should be obtaining multiple quotes as much as possible for the procurement of services and supplies even when below \$25,000:
 - Best practice to try to get at least 2 quotes, whenever possible, especially for work approaching the \$25,000 threshold
 - This is true even if procuring the supplies separately, i.e. it is the combined cost of services and supplies that should be used when evaluating if multiple quotes are required, even if two vendors are involved.
 - Purchasing has list of local vendors and equitable resources that should be looked to first when requesting quotes:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/finance/purchasing/local-businesses/>

- <https://www.cityofmadison.com/finance/purchasing/equitable-purchasing-resources>
- A few year-end reminders on p-card use:
- Anything that is charged after Dec 24th will post in January's statement – i.e. fiscal year 2026. We need to make sure charges post in the same fiscal year as the items used/services performed. Special attention should be paid to charges made between Dec 24th-31st
- Do not purchase anything on your p-card that will be used in 2026 until after Christmas. Please get an invoice if you need to purchase it ahead of time.
- Likewise, after Christmas, do not pay for any goods or services with your p-card if the goods were used or services performed in 2025. If you do, they will incorrectly hit 2026. Please submit any unpaid invoices for 2025 stuff to us for payment by check.
- Be sure to wait until January to renew your memberships or sign up for trainings.
- Do not "stock up" on items before year end. If you purchase items in 2025 they should be used in 2025. If you need to replenish stock type items please wait until 2026 if possible.

Construction Inspection

Kyle Frank, Principal Engineer Section

The last of Public Works projects are paved and restoration work completed at end of November. Inspectors are working on getting final quantities and as-builts put together as we work to close out this year's projects. Private development work will continue into the winter with larger subdivisions such as Midpoint Meadows and Hill Valley installing utilities through the winter. Surveyors are pushing hard to finish up surveys for 2026 before weather prevents further surveying. Contractor/Developer/Engineer meeting occurred November 19th with roughly 35 contractors and developers attending. Thanks to all City staff that attended and helped with putting that together.

Coming and Going

Promotion

- Josh Sherrod (Promotion to GIS Specialist 1)

Departures

- Mark Parrish (MI-TE)

GEAR: The Engineering Division Intranet Site

Don't forget to bookmark GEAR today!

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/employeeet/engineering>



Our Madison – Inclusive, Innovative & Thriving

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