

**From:** [Mohelnitzky, Hannah](#)  
**Subject:** The E: February 2024  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 12:38:20 PM  
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[image018.png](#)  
[image020.png](#)  
[image022.png](#)  
[image029.png](#)  
[image030.png](#)  
[image012.png](#)  
[image017.png](#)  
[image019.png](#)  
[image021.png](#)  
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**Importance:** High

# THE E.

*A newsletter for the Engineering Division*



February 2024 Issue

## A message from City Engineer, Jim Wolfe

It has been a busy start to the year for the Engineering Division. Our crews were busy clearing snow during a stretch of significant winter weather, a number of major Facilities projects are now underway, with several more still to come, and there have been a lot Public Informational Meetings and contracts going out to bid for our right-of-way projects. Thank you all for your hard to kick off 2024! As you'll see in this edition of the "E," we're going to try out a spring All-hands meeting in mid-March to help bring all of us together. For staff in CCB, you may have noticed ongoing work in the 118A conference room. This work is to help set up a new data closet for the City, and, as part of that work, there will be a network outage for our CCB offices. We're still working with our colleagues in IT to sort out the details of how that outage will work and specifically when, but it seems likely that it will happen in March. We'll continue to share more information on that outage once we know more.

-Jim

## Spring All Hands Meeting Date Set!

The planning is underway for the next Engineering Division All Hands Meeting! We're going to try having two All Hands Meetings this year, one in the spring, one in the fall. If that works well, that may become our new Engineering Division tradition.

This spring's meeting is scheduled for, March 12, 2024, at Emil Street, timing is still TBD, but will likely be mid-day to allow for downtown staff to be transported by bus again. Both the spring and fall meetings will have different goals

and focuses. An Outlook invite will be sent out via email this week.

## Take this 1-Question Survey: MissionSquare Presentation

Engineering Staff: Please take a moment to fill out this ONE QUESTION Survey. We'd like to know if you're interested in having our MissionSquare (deferred Comp company we use besides Fidelity) Rep. Kevin Linsmeier, come do a seminar to inform Engineering staff about what a deferred comp 457(b) is. Please take a moment to answer this one-question survey – Yes or No – [by 4 p.m., Feb. 9, 2024.](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X7G3WKZ)

### SURVEY:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X7G3WKZ>

## Bryan Cooper Wears a Wig for Combined Campaign Contest





'Bryan Cooper wears a wig for a day' was the winner of the Combined Campaign contest downtown. Staff voted on their favorite activity by putting money in jars, and the proceeds of the contest went to United Way and Thursday's Child charities. The Engineering Division raised over \$218 this year. Thanks for being a great sport, Bryan!

## Vision Zero Quarterly Newsletter Out

The first issue of 2024 for Madison's [Vision Zero Quarterly Newsletter](#) is out.

This issue looks at the work of Madison's Vision Zero initiative and discusses the programs and activities available that move us closer to safety design and awareness. We remind the community about some public opportunities to get involved by sharing what is observed in local areas and invite others to join us for a brisk winter stroll. We close this issue with a discussion of federal grant applications and focus areas for the awarded funds.

This edition of the newsletter features articles on the following topics:

- Putting People First: Improving Vulnerable Roadway Users Safety through Proactive and Predictive Smart City Technologies
- Winter Walk to School Day
- Report a Problem
- Winter Driver Safety Tips
- Sheboygan – Segoe Redesign
- Safe Streets for All

## Equity Minute: Celebrate Black History Month in February

February is an annual celebration of achievement by African Americans and a time to learn about groundbreaking people, places and events.

Three facts about Black History Month:

1. Originally known as "Negro History Week," Black History Month was established in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, an African American historian, scholar, educator, and publisher. In 1976, it became a month-long celebration. The month of February was selected to coincide with the birthdays of two influential figures: Fredrick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.
2. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) a prominent civil rights organization, was founded in response to racial violence in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It opened on February 12, 1909, and marked the centennial anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth.
3. The theme for Black History Month 2024 focuses on "African Americans and the Arts". Celebrate Black History Month at the Madison Public Library. Arts, Books, Films, Children's Stories, Author Visits are planned though out the month. Learn more at [madisonpubliclibrary.org/black-history-month](https://madisonpubliclibrary.org/black-history-month).



## Engineering Equity Team Update

The Engineering Equity Team officially kicked off on January 31 with a full day retreat. During the retreat, the Equity Team was able to compile a list of Equity goals for the division. The team is excited to get started on completing our goals for the year! Goals will be shared once approved.

## Disability Resource Group Announces Upcoming Meetings for Group and City Employees

The Disability Resource Group is excited to share our 2024 meetings and events. The DRG is a City of Madison Affinity Group for employees with disabilities and employees exploring a disability identity.

Disability Resource Group meetings are open to staff with disabilities and staff exploring a disability identity.

Email [RHoyt@cityofmadison.com](mailto:RHoyt@cityofmadison.com) or [VLarson@cityofmadison.com](mailto:VLarson@cityofmadison.com) for more information and to join the email group.

Thursday, April 18, 2024, 11:00 – 12:00 pm

Thursday, June 20, 2024, 11:00 – 12:00 pm *special invitation to LGBTQIA+ Affinity Group members!*

Thursday, September 19, 2024, 11:00 – 12:00 pm

Thursday, December 19, 2024, 11:00 – 12:00 pm

Zoom Meeting Info: <https://cityofmadison.zoom.us/j/84785397344?pwd=WGYrT045TXp2b0hyZjFram12d1RWUT09>

Meeting ID: 847 8539 7344

Passcode: 878885

### Events open to all staff, public

#### *Assistive Technology in the Workplace*

Join us for a hybrid panel discussion. In-person attendees will have an opportunity to try assistive technology devices following the panel.

Thursday, March 21, 2024, 11:00 – 1:00 pm

Hybrid/In-person – City County Building, Room 507A

Zoom Meeting Info: <https://cityofmadison.zoom.us/j/82073170386?pwd=Tml0ekpjWVZidTA0V1hOUgp2MklWQT09>

Meeting ID: 820 7317 0386

Passcode: 015394

Disability Resource Group events are sponsored by the Department of Civil Rights. If you have access needs for meetings or events, contact [RHoyt@cityofmadison.com](mailto:RHoyt@cityofmadison.com).

## Media Snapshot

### Winter Salt Awareness Week Press Event: Salt and See





The City of Madison Engineering Division, in partnership with [Wisconsin Salt Wise](#), demonstrated by showing the exact impacts of salt use in the community with a salt testing demonstration last week near Starkweather Creek in Madison, Wis. The video opportunity showed Matt Noone doing salt level testing. City Engineering Staff (Phil Gaebler!) and Wisconsin Salt Wise staff did interviews after to explain why it's important to reduce salt use as part of celebrating [Winter Salt Awareness Week](#), Jan. 22-26, 2024.

#### City Engineering, Fleet Featured for Gold LEED work on Nakoosa Trail Project



DAVE LUBACH

## Madison Centralizes City Service with LEED Gold Fleet Building

*LEED Gold fleet building centralizes services, creates energy saving, electric vehicle charging opportunities for city of Madison, Wisconsin.*



By Dave Lubach, Executive Editor

[GREEN](#)

Like most cities across the United States, Madison, Wisconsin, has a climate plan that includes achieving net-zero operation of city buildings by 2030 – seven years away.

<https://www.facilitiesnet.com/green/article/Madison-Centralizes-City-Service-with-LEED-Gold-Fleet-Building--20032>

**New AASPIRE Intern PIO Experience Videos Live**



### [Charlie Hildebrandt Experience](#)



### [Alli Kohlstedt Experience](#)



### **Press Releases**

[Crews to Clear Storm Inlets During This Week's Potential Thaws.](#)

[City of Madison Earns 2023 Leadership Circle Recognition with National Monarch Pledge](#)

[Busy Weekend Ahead: Engineering Snow Crews Clear City's Bike Paths, Sidewalks and Bus Stop Pads](#)

### **Blogs**

[Happy Winter Salt Awareness Week!](#)

[Engineering Teamwork: South Point Biobasin Planting Success!](#)

## **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*

Planning for a number of upcoming groundbreakings has kept me busy. Hanson Road Metro Facility is next week, State Street Multiuse Parking Building will be next, followed by a celebration at Emil Street for the City reaching 2 Megawatts of power thanks to solar installations. The next busy campaign for ENG Communications also includes

Women in Construction Week, where we highlight the work of our staff, and other women working in a construction-related role in other agencies (Building Inspection/Parks/Water Utility/Traffic Engineering). The announcement for the Engineering selection will come soon. We are growing our ENG Social Media Team with two new users now trained in Engineering Social Media Strategy and tools: Laura Amundson and Danielle Dixon. Laura will be posting more about updates from Facilities Management project updates and more. Danielle will be using social media to leverage openings to apply for Engineering Division job opportunities. I'm also getting ready to move into finding our next Engineering AASPIRE Intern. Two new recruitment videos are ready for viewing thanks to the experience of our last two interns Charlie and Alli! The links are posted in the Media Snapshot.

### **Public Works and Private Development**

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

Public works engineers are continuing to work on 2024 projects. Private development Engineers and Managers continue to service contracts and issue plan sets. Plans issued this month 402 W Wilson, 531 W Washington, BRT Mineral Point Sidewalk Widening, Dist. 19 Ordered Sidewalk, Dist. 11 Horizontal Saw cutting. Rutledge St was presented to the Transportation Commission. Staff discussed the new complete green streets ordinance and its issues with fire lanes at the transportation commission to provide guidance for engineers and developers.

### **Facilities Management**

*Bryan Cooper, Deputy City Engineer, Facilities Services and Management*

- 2024 GreenPower team continuing installation work at [Police Training Center, Engineering Operations Facility, and East District Police in the coming weeks/months. Design and procurement activities for CDA Truax Apartments Solar PV project underway.](#)
- Construction Phase > [Streets West Badger Salt Barn, CCB remodels \(Assessor/Clerk/Treasurer/OIM/Common Council\), Royal Thai Pavilion roof replacement/restoration, Door Creek Park Pavilion, Tenney Park Beach Shelter, Madison Public Market, Metro – Satellite Facility, State Street Campus Garage Mixed Use Development](#)
- Bidding/Contract Phase > [Fire Station 14 Training Site Phase 1, Village on Park Parking Structure, Rennebohm Park Shelter Restroom Renovation, Country Grove Park Shelter, West Streets Facility HVAC and Lighting Upgrade](#)
- Design Phase > [Bartillon Shelter, Streets – Waste Transfer – Public Drop Off Access and Flatwork Improvements, WPCRC Expansion, Imagination Center at Reindahl Park](#)

### **Operations – Sewer and Stormwater Utilities**

*Kathy Cryan, Deputy Division Manager, Operations, Admin, and Personnel*

Winter arrived in January with a vengeance! And it kept our crews extremely busy with snow related work. Engineering crews are responsible for removing snow from assigned bike paths, sidewalks, and bus stops, assisting Streets with general plow, and opening snow covered inlets located at low points. Our crews worked 13 days without a day off to help minimize the snow and cold temperatures impact on residents and businesses. In total crews worked 2,293 hours on snow removal activities in January. Thanks to everyone – especially those who worked overtime! Despite so much time spent on snow removal, crews still managed to keep up with other work. Sewer cleaning crews are on schedule with PMs, greenway crews are working on brush and tree removal to keep drainage channels clear, and construction crews are doing repairs. Also – congrats to Travis Bruss, Andy Haag, Steve McKenzie, Garrett Nelson, and Craig Pribbenow for passing the WDNR Wastewater Collection System Operator certification in January and being promoted to Sewer & Drainage Maintenance Technician 2!

### **Stormwater**

*Janet Schmidt, Principal Engineer, Section Manager*

We are looking forward to the completion of the Wexford Pond dredging, which well underway. Public works contracts for street reconstruction and resurfacing projects are in full swing with public meetings and designs. Pheasant Branch Enhancement at Old Sauk Trails Business Park is moving along quickly with a public meeting coming up in early February. This is a very visible project that will help reduce flooding on the far west side. Thanks to Phil and Hannah for promoting Salt Awareness week in January! It's always good to remind people this time of year how overuse of salt has long lasting detrimental effects on the environment. Even though it feels as if Budget just finished (which it did), it's already time to start planning for the 2025 submittal. We have a lot of storm box culverts that are in need of rehab so there will be plenty of work to go around- just need to find some money. We are hoping the University Avenue Box repairs are successful so we have another tool for repairs vs full replacement. We continue

working on the Sauk Creek Greenway Corridor Planning and Stormwater Utility Vegetation Management Plan. Both are solidly underway with likely 9-12 more months to go. Lots to do in 2024!

### **Sanitary Sewer**

*Mark Moder, Principal Engineer, Section Manager*

Project assignments for 2024 construction year are now out and designs are underway. Private development continues to be steady with infill site redevelopments and plat development design work. Several of the infill lot redevelopments are resulting in larger regional infrastructure sewer projects. Lake Street Garage Redevelopment (Lake St. and Dayton St. Sewer), Gardners Bakery Redevelopment (Commercial Ave.(Hwy 30) sewer crossing), 1617 Sherman Ave. (Fordem-First St. Sewer Replacement) are now moving forward with design and bidding. More developments continue to be proposed that may require offsite sewer improvements because of the significant increase in wastewater generated. Properties changing from office land use to apartment developments has been the primary reason for needing the offsite sewer improvements. Lift Stations Projects: Truax Lift Station Replacement will be under construction and completed in 2024. Badger Lift Station Replacement will be designed in 2024. Impact Fee Projects- The Pumpkin Hollow Neighborhood Sanitary Sewer (regional sewer improvement) will serve pending development in the vicinity of Portage Rd and Hoepker Road and potentially a much larger 674-acre basin which currently does not have access to City sewer. We use Impact Fees are used when the land served the project is located both within and outside the City limits. Finally, the 2025 Budget planning will be beginning in February.

### **Land Information/Official Map**

*Jeff Quamme, Section Manager*

- More replat street vacation projects.
- Continued coordination of Real Estate projects for several engineering projects
- Ongoing review and modification of addressing data to be used by Dane County 911.
- Private development in the City of Madison extensive land right reviews, acquisitions and releases.
- Continued maintenance of files and processing for storm water billing.
- Final policy changes for street naming and renaming policies resolution is now moving through committees for action by Common Council.
- Several Relocation Order and acquisition of rights projects for engineering.
- Review of all historic Official Map reservations to confirm all are in our base mapping.
- Review of parcel classes to assure proper utility billing to exempt parcels.

### **Engineering Technology**

*Candice Kasprzak, Engineering Technology Manager*

- Starting on getting sidewalk inspections up in CityWorks
- Setting up new Facilities Management projects in Autodesk Construction Cloud (ACC)
- Starting to get contract administration set up in ACC
- Start work with Construction Inspection in 2023 to configure ACC
- Looking into getting CityWorks time imported into Kronos
- Researching BIM for facilities into CityWorks
- Setting up CAD standards, templates and efficiency improvements
- E911 Addressing Points with Dane County
- Misc CityWorks updates and maintenance
- Sanitary & Storm record updates – working on sanitary and storm backlog
- Data Governance –Working on data training. Looking into online class forums for different topics

### **Administration Staff**

*Johanna Johnson and Heidi Fleegel, Isaac Gabriel*

The key Common Council and Board of Public Works dates to know in February are:

- CC Resolution deadline was TUESDAY, Feb. 6 at 8:00 a.m (2/13 CC)
- BPW Resolution deadline is NOON on Wednesday, Feb 14 (2/21 BPW)
- CC Resolution deadline is TUESDAY Feb. 27 at 8:00 a.m. (3/5 CC)
- BPW Resolution deadline is NOON on Wednesday, Feb. 28 (3/6 BPW)

\*Please note the Common Council deadline is being changed to earlier in the day on Tuesday. Legistar files submitted after the Tuesday deadline are subject to being introduced from the floor. This includes items typically covered by



the consent agenda.

### **Finance**

*Steve Danner-Rivers, Financial Manager*

- Let Steve know ASAP of any 2023 work we need to bill out (to other agencies or outside entities).
- Last chance to pay invoices related to 2023 work. Please submit to Jen/Chase ASAP.
- Submit partial payments and change orders related to 2023 work ASAP.
- If you had any 2023 grant activity (applied for grants, received award/denial letters, worked on active grants, submitted reimbursements, etc.), please let Chase know if you haven't already.

### **Construction Inspection**

*John Fahrney, Principal Engineer, Section Manager*

No blurb submitted.

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## **Coming and Going**

- New Hires
  - Erin Geter
  - Idania Morales
- Promotions
  - Josh Sherrod
  - Alaina Baker
  - Andrew Mellinger
  - Jennifer Wright
  - Jay Pare
  - Andrew Haag
  - Chase O'Brien
  - Garrett Nelson
  - Craig Pribbenow
  - Travis Bruss
  - John Toso
  - Steve McKenzie
- Departures
  - Interview/Offer Process
    - Posted Leadworker 1 – Operations
    - Maintenance Mechanic Trainee
- Posted
  - Surveyor 2
  - Public Works Utilities Maintenance Worker 1 or Public Works Utilities Machine Operator 1
  - Construction Inspector Hourly
  - Conservation Ecology Trainee
  - Infrastructure Trainee
  - Solar Power Trainee
- Upcoming postings
  - Utility Locator

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Don't forget to bookmark GEAR today!

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

**Our Madison – Inclusive, Innovative & Thriving**

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