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# THE E.

*A newsletter for the Engineering Division*



June 2025 Issue

## A message from your City Engineer, Jim Wolfe:

There is almost always something happening throughout the year related to budget preparation or approvals. In July, we're working on some small modifications to the Capital Budget to address requested changes or to account for new information since they were initially submitted in April. Also, our 2026 Operating Budget request is due in mid-July. Compared to recent years, this Operating Budget preparation is a bit more straightforward for the Engineering Division, especially since we have limited reliance on federal funding. Nonetheless, a lot of work still goes into preparing these budgets, and I remain so grateful to our team for their dedication, thoroughness, and creativity in preparing our budgets each year.

-Jim

## All Hands Meeting Date Set

We're excited to announce our next City of Madison Engineering Division All Hands In-Person Meeting for 2025:  
**11 a.m.-1 p.m., Oct. 21, 2025, 1600 Emil Street Garage, Madison, Wis.**

There will be food provided. We will be sharing updates on a number of Engineering Division topics, celebrate new employees and time dedicated to the City, highlight great work and get everyone together for our annual meeting. More information will be posted

in each "The E" from now until October. If you have feedback or suggestions for our upcoming meeting, please do not hesitate to share with [hmoehlnitzky@cityofmadison](mailto:hmoehlnitzky@cityofmadison), and we can discuss at our planning meetings with the planning team.

## From Second Chances to City Engineering: Don Brown's Fresh Start Journey

Written by Operation Fresh Start Staff Hayley Hodsdon



Cory, OFS Director of Legacy and Conservation (left), and Jake, OFS Conservation Academy Supervisor (right), shake hands with Don in the center at his Conservation Academy graduation on May 28, 2025.

When Don Brown walked into Operation Fresh Start (OFS) in February 2022, he wasn't sure what to expect. "I didn't know what I was stepping into," he recalled. "But I knew I didn't want to keep going down the same road." Quiet and observant, Don wasn't the type to draw attention to himself—but those who met him sensed depth behind his reserved demeanor.

Over the next three years, Don would earn his high school diploma, overcome personal fears, and grow into a confident, capable professional. At the end of May 2025, he began a new chapter in his life: working with City of Madison Engineering as a Greenway Conservation Trainee, helping protect public infrastructure and improve environmental health.

His story is a testament to the power of second chances, hard work, and the belief that change is possible when you keep showing up.



Don with Maddie Dumas (left) and Emily Gorvego (right) from the City of Madison Engineering at Don's graduation in May.

Read the rest of Don's Feature including hearing from **Engineering Staff, Maddie Dumas**:

<https://www.operationfreshstart.org/post/from-second-chances-to-city-engineering-don-brown-operation-fresh-start>

## Equity Blurp

Written by Danielle Dixon

July is National Disability Pride Month! The first pride month happened in July 1990, to coincide with the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This month is used to celebrate the achievements and experiences of those with disabilities. It is also a month that is used to promote inclusivity within the community itself.

## Nominate a Co-Worker Doing Great Work

#TeamCity Awards is a unique citywide recognition program launched in February 2020. Since then, hundreds of City employees and teams have been recognized in ceremonies for outstanding work by Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway. Any City employee can nominate an employee or a team. The next ceremony will be held on Friday, Aug. 8. Please submit nominations using one of the [#TeamCity forms](#). The next round of forms are being accepted through Wednesday, July 16 to be considered for this ceremony, and can be sent by email to me at [juludag@cityofmadison.com](mailto:juludag@cityofmadison.com) or by Inter-D to Fleet HQ, 4151 Nakoosa Trail. Nominations are also accepted at any time on a rolling basis.

## Engineering Teams up with Library for Sewer Explorers Event



Thank you to the following Engineering staff who were awesome at teaching the community and specifically, the kids, who attended our first event with the library, "Sewer Explorers" in June:

- **Vector Tech Ben Gulvik**
- **Operator 1 Chris Waskow**
- **CCTV Tech Jason Raisbeck**
- **Operator 1 Donale Richards**

What a successful afternoon sharing about what our big machines do for our community! At the event, kids were able to wash the vacators, play games, color and "design a road," and so much more! The event was held from 1-2 p.m., June 13, at Hawthorne Library in the mural alley.







[View Full Montage Video!](#)

#### **Background on the Big Green Vector**

The City of Madison Engineering Division's "Big Green Vector Preventive Maintenance Program" is an aggressive approach to maintaining and cleaning the City's sanitary and storm sewer.

#### **The "Big Green Vector"**

The Big Green Vectors that you see around town are the City's primary tool to clean and maintain the City Sewer system. Cleaning and televising the City sanitary sewer mains prevents interruption in sanitary sewer service (backups) for customers and Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) which are our priorities as a Utility.

The City of Madison-Engineering Division has 10 Vector trucks.

#### **The Closed Circuit Television Program**

Closed circuit television video sewer inspection is a proactive approach of preventative maintenance of the sewer system which minimizes disruption of sewer service to our customers.

There are two major components to preventative maintenance: cleaning sewers and televising (video inspecting) sewers to identify defective pipes that need to be repaired or replaced.

## **Media Roundup**

#### **News Releases**

- [Heavy Rain Continues, Urban Flash Flooding Expected, Avoid Flash Flooded Areas](#) posted June 24, 2025
- [Phase 2 of Highland Avenue Project Begins Monday](#) posted June 24, 2025
- [Nakoma Road Sidewalk Project & Shawnee Pass Construction](#) posted June 20, 2025
- [2025 Vision Zero Safe Streets and Speed Management Projects](#) posted June 13, 2025
- [Summer Fun for Kids, Sewer Explorers Event Friday](#) posted June 12, 2025
- [Street Closure — West Washington Avenue](#) posted June 9, 2025
- [Road Closures for Wilson Street Final Paving and Marking Work](#) posted June 6, 2025

#### **Blogs**

- [Watch Construction Progress of Imagination Center at Reindahl Park](#) posted June 27, 2025
- [Plant of the Week: Common Milkweed](#) posted June 23, 2025
- [Plant of the Week: Cream Baptisia](#) posted June 13, 2025

#### **City Press Conferences**

- [News Conference: Mayor, Alders, & Community Leaders Announce New Housing Package](#)
- [News Conference: Wear Orange Weekend June 6, 2025](#)
- [News Conference: City & County Juneteenth Flag Event June 3, 2025](#)
- [News Conference: Pride Month Flag Raising June 2, 2025](#)
- [News Conference: Bike Week June 02, 2025](#)

## **New Public Engagement Document for Road Construction**

We worked with the Office of Business Resources to put together a new document that shows an inventory of all public touchpoints for communication during road construction. This document allows for us in Engineering and OBR to know what communication is going out to the public, on which medium and when. We can make a document like this for any section, and if you'd like one put

together for a specific project process you have, email [hmohelnitzky@cityofmadison.com](mailto:hmohelnitzky@cityofmadison.com). This requires a lot of coordination between the section head of the project and the agency PIO for regular meetings.

[Public Engagement Guide for Road Construction Projects](#)

## Calling New Everyday Engineering Podcast Ideas

Calling all ideas for upcoming podcast episodes! Unique projects? Unique new things coming up? Let's talk about it! You can use these episodes to educate the public when asking questions, etc.

We have six openings for the next round of recordings!

Each recording is 30 minutes – but our episode is less than 20. We'll walk you through each question, and we have fun!

Each podcast episode has the host and up to two guests. (Typically different views/perspectives/stakes in the topic, but if you're on a team, let's have you both!)

If you have an idea, email [hmohelnitzky@cityofmadison.com](mailto:hmohelnitzky@cityofmadison.com)

## 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'm in a busy stretch for planning events and planning for fall! The All Hands Meeting planning is underway with our first meeting to plan in July. I'm also leading our website accessibility push with updating our web. More to come on that. The next video we're working on for communications is a new recruitment video for operations and it'll be offered in Spanish, Hmong and English. I'm also coordinating a couple events some more hands on than others to promote our work: I'm working with Mortenson for State Street Campus Garage Event in September and then trying to coordinate a Wilson Street Ribbon Cutting in August. We had a great event with the library at Hawthorne in June, and I'd like to commit to two events with them a year, so if you have a topic or approach to work we do in Engineering that could be fun for kids to learn, please let me know! It's really fun, and the library is so supportive with creative ideas and making it happen. Waterways 2025 assignments have been approved and are emailed out for first drafts to come back in mid-July. Our Everyday Engineering Podcast is getting a facelift and will be re-launching with a fun new look and fresh intro with a need for cool intros in the fall. Let me know if you have any ideas.

### 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 2025 projects. Private development Engineers and Managers continue to service contracts and issue plan sets. Plans issued this month include E Main/S Hancock, Braxton Place, Meyer Rd, Badger/Rusk, Mansion Hill Ave, 1150 S Park, 403 W Gorham, 6702 Mader Dr. Davidson/Maher was presented to and approved by the Transportation Commission.

### Facilities Management

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

- Substantially Completed > [Country Grove Park Shelter](#)
- Construction Phase > [CDA Truax Apartments Solar PV](#), [Madison Public Market](#), [State Street Campus Garage Mixed Use Development](#), [Village on Park Parking Structure](#), [Bartillon Shelter](#), [WPCRC Expansion](#), [Hoover Boathouse Door/Window/Siding Replacement + Painting](#), [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](#)
- Bidding/Contract Phase > [Fire Station 8 Lighting Retrofit](#)
- Design Phase > [Streets Division - Far West Operations Building](#), [Engineering Services Building Locker Room Renovation](#), [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, Engineering Clean Fill Site

### Operations – Sewer and Stormwater Utilities

*Wayne Brown, Operations General Foreperson*

Ah, the dog days of summer — when the sun sizzles, sweat flows, and sewer cleaning becomes oddly glamorous. Vactor crews are out there like sewer superheroes, battling grime and keeping stormwater from throwing a tantrum. PMs and ACs are flying off the to-do list faster than free donuts in the breakroom.

Meanwhile, the mow crews are out wrestling with overgrown ponds and greenways like it's a botanical MMA match.

The locators? Oh, they're out doing what they do best — locating stuff that nobody else can find. Like sewer ninjas with GPS. And over at the landfill, the crew is... well, doing mysterious landfill things. We don't ask, we just nod respectfully.

Construction crews are in full beast mode, building, digging, and generally making the rest of us feel lazy. Engineers are pulling the strings like caffeinated puppet masters, keeping those crews so busy they've forgotten what "break" means. The patch crews? Let's just say they're laying it down hotter than a July sidewalk.

And then there's the pride of the department — the legendary CCTV team. They're making sewer videos that Spielberg could only dream of and tackling trenchless point repairs like pros.

MI-TE folks are absorbing knowledge like sponges with hard hats. And don't worry — the sidewalks aren't fixing themselves (yet), but our crew is out there making sure your stroll doesn't turn into an accidental parkour session.

Keep it up, team—you're making the underground (and aboveground) world a better place, one busted pipe and broken slab at a time.

Teamwork makes the dream work!

### **Stormwater**

*Janet Schmidt, Principal Engineer, Section Manager*

This summer we have had several big rains that are testing our storm sewer system! These events have been intense and for a short duration so we are seeing quite a few flash flooding issues in our usual hotspots. Greg Fries worked with staff to publish a map to assist in understanding where some historic flash flooding occurs in the City. Fixing all these issues will take a long time but at least people can be more informed so they can make good decisions in the event of a flood. Thanks to all those that assist with cleaning inlets and grates, responding to calls and concerns and those that are working on the larger citywide flood initiatives. Speaking of flood projects, the Nakoma/Manitou box culvert (Phase 1) and the Capital City Bikepath Storm Sewer (located downtown) are both scheduled to start up in earnest at the end of July – delivery of the box culvert appears to be the critical path now. An offer was made for our hydrogeologist position and we hope that our new hire will begin in mid to late July – just in time to help us work through the web of regulations and requirements that are involved with the dewatering and disposal of our dredge sediments. The Stormwater Ecological Restoration Specialist job posting got over 130 applicants! We are looking forward to starting the interview process in earnest and excited to get a good candidate for the position. Hope everyone is having a great summer so far!

### **Sanitary Sewer**

*Mark Moder, Principal Engineer, Section Manager*

The WDNR continue to take their extra time for their reviews so please try to apply for sewer extensions early if you are able. Private development has primarily been infill site redevelopments but we still to do have plat development design. Private Development: Our next infill apartment development where we need to bid out installing new sewer to serve it is 1617 Sherman Ave. We now have permitting from the two railroads for the sewer crossing from Fordem to E. Johnson St., but we still need to go through the City approval process for bidding. We are most likely looking at August or September bid for this project. Lift Stations Projects: The Badger Lift Station Replacement is now partially designed with construction is planned to begin late 2025/ early 2026. Mayflower L.S. is now under design for 2026 construction with the CDA redevelopment on W. Badger Rd/ S. Park St. The Lake Forest lift station will have a RFP to hire a design consultant later this year.

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

*Jeff Quamme, Section Manager*

- Continuing - Engineering Tech and IT completing the script for the Storm Water Billing. Working on the last parcels and finding all pertinent data.
- Assisting MWU with rights and easements necessary for the Interstate Crossing near Ho Chunk
- Continued support with BRT project. N – S will be an ongoing project. Mineral Point Road last utility rights being completed.
- Continued work on 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 going at a high pace with the additional help with address validation. Thank you for the Engineering Tech folks.
- Private development work is extensive. A lot of demands, among complex projects requiring staff to commit much time and effort to keep the projects on track. Affects 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.)
- Checking and adding parcel mapping for future areas of Blooming Grove to attach in 2027 as time permits.
- Continued consistent updating of base mapping with new documents of record and updating of areas in need of adjustment spatially that are not accurately mapped as they are discovered.

### **Engineering Technology**

*Candice Kasprzak, Engineering Technology Manager*

- Nearing the end of 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
- GIS upgrade to ArcPro is coming soon. We will put an email together outlining training opportunities and processes for moving forward. This is a major upgrade and will take some adjustment time. IT is working with a consultant on upgrading all of the GIS servers and databases.
- Beginning private development workflows in ACC – working on Authorization to Proceed and balance notices
- Wrapping up all of the PW front end contract documentation automated where possible, and into ACC.
- Researching BIM for facilities into CityWorks
- Updating our Vehicle/Equipment/Technology acquisition process in CW
- Will start testing new CityWorks with IT this month
- 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 and Heidi Fleegel*

Upcoming Common Council dates and Board of Public Works dates for July and August are Common Council resolution deadline is 8 a.m. on Tuesday, July 8 (CC meeting is 7/15); Tuesday, July 29 (CC meeting 8/5). Board of Public Works resolution deadline is Noon on Wednesday, July 9 (BPW meeting is 7/16); Wednesday, July 30 (BPW meeting 8/6).

### **Finance**

*Steve Danner-Rivers, Financial Manager*

The Finance Section continues to be busy with all the typical day to day accounting matters while also taking on the various budget related tasks that come up this time of year. The 2026 Operating Budget officially kicked off on 6/16. Finance staff are currently busy working on building Engineering's four Operating Budgets which will be submitted to the Mayor on 7/18. The Mayor then releases her Executive Operating Budget on 10/7. The next milestone for the 2026 Capital Budget is the introduction of the Mayor's Executive Capital Budget on 9/2. The annual borrowing exercise to determine how much to borrow for 2025 capital project is also currently underway and will be submitted on 7/2.

#### Construction Inspection

*Kyle Frank, Principal Engineer Section*

Permits, private development, and public works projects are well underway, keeping Inspection staff busy. Surveyors are working on construction staking and working on completing surveys for 2026 projects. New Inspector 1, Lindsay Vincent, started with the section June 9 and will eventually be helping out with projects in the central area of the City.

## COMING AND GOING

#### New Hires

- Arshitha Nagisetty (Engineering Assistant 2) (Construction Inspection) (She/Her)

#### Promotions

- Lesley Parker (Promotion to GIS Specialist 1) (She/her)

#### Departures

- Rebecca Qureishi

## GEAR: The Engineering Division Intranet Site

Don't forget to bookmark GEAR today!

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



## Our Madison – Inclusive, Innovative & Thriving

City of Madison Engineering Division

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