

From: [Mohelnitzky, Hannah](#)
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THE E.

A newsletter for the Engineering Division



June 2025 Issue

A message from your City Engineer, Jim Wolfe:

If you look around the City, I think it's obvious that we're in a peak time of year for a lot of the activities that the Engineering Division does, which is also all noted below in our Section Updates! Many projects are under construction – public works contracts, private developments, utility permits, facilities work, and also including a number by our own crews. It's far too many to list them all. This also clearly demonstrates how good of a team we have here in Engineering to help complete all of this work along the full life cycle of this infrastructure, from the planning and design, through construction and inspection, and then the long term maintenance. It's all very impressive, and we should all be very proud of this important work that we're doing for our residents.

Also, I want to pass along some sad news to all of you. On June 1, Joe Clausius passed away. I've worked with Joe in some capacity for essentially my entire time with the City. He was alder in District 17 for 8 years, elected the same year I started my career, and he had also served on the Board of Public Works since 2017. He was so generous with his time and was very dedicated to public service, and he was always so supportive of the work that we do in Engineering. He will be very missed by many in our community, and I just want to express my gratitude to all that Joe has done for this City and our Division. A celebration of life will be held for [Joe at Ryan Funeral Home](#) on June 20 from 4pm to 7pm for any who would like to attend.

-Jim

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. 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](#)

Engineering Helps Complete New Art at Village on Park



****Shoutout to Facilities* Jim Whitney for his work in getting this art installed!***

The City of Madison is pleased to announce the completion and installation of a new public art piece by renowned artist Michael Ford at the Village on Park.

The mural, titled "Colorful Characters," is located on the corner of the new parking structure at the Village on Park, adjacent to the Urban League's Black Business Hub. Ford used the letters in "South Madison" to create vibrant, abstracted shapes, which he combined with photographs from past South Madison leaders to create a four-story mural on the corner of the structure.

Registration Open for Ride the Drive

Madison Parks and the RTD planning crew are excited to invite you to volunteer for Ride the Drive 2025 on Sunday, August 10, from 10 am to 2 pm! This event promises to be a fantastic day of community, cycling, and fun. Your support is crucial to creating a memorable experience for everyone involved. We are counting on you to help make this event a success! Sign up today at ridethedrive.com and be a part of this wonderful community event!

Event Details:

- **Event Hours:** 10 am to 2 pm (streets closed from 8 am to 3 pm)

Volunteer Roles:

- Intersection Guides
- Setup Crew
- Bike Ambassadors
- Information Station Guides
- Cleanup Crew

How to Sign Up:

1. Review the [volunteer role descriptions](#) and choose a position or positions that work for you.
2. Click [Browse Opportunities and Register Online](#)
3. Enter the requested contact information, select "Register" and you will receive an email confirmation.
4. Report to your registered location and time on Sunday, August 10 to meet a Madison Parks staff member, receive further instructions and pick up your free, RTD t-shirt!

TASC Flexible Spending Accounts and Reimbursement

Are you having a problem submitting a reimbursement claim for a covered healthcare expense through TASC?

Contact Katarina Klafka, Benefits Program Assistant in Human Resources, if you submitted your receipt with the required documentation but are still getting requests for additional information or have been denied.

Katarina's phone number is (608) 266-4615, or email kklafka@cityofmadison.com

Want nice photos of your projects? IT Photo Intern is Back!

If you have a project or service you'd like professional grade photos taken of, please email hmohelnitzky@cityofmadison.com. We'll compile a list of topics and put in the request for the IT photo intern.

Message from IT:

In particular, we want to prioritize photos of City employees at work or interacting with members of the public.

These might include:

- On-site photos or ride-alongs with staff in the field
- Events or programs
- General requests, such as a City facility, park, development project, etc.

For on-site photos or events, we'll need your help coordinating with your department's staff. Please let us know a few dates and times that would work for your group.

Blood Drive in MMB June 10 Today for City/County Employees

- The American Red Cross will be at the Madison Municipal Building on Tuesday, June 10 for a Blood Drive. This event is open to all City and County employees. While walk-ins are welcome, it's recommended you secure an appointment in advance.
- **Date:** June 10, 2025
- **Time:** 8:00am – 2:00pm
- **Location:** Madison Municipal Building Room 215, 215 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Please either call 1-800-733-2767, visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code: CityCountyMadison, or [click this link to sign up to donate blood on June 10](#).

City's Digital Accessibility Project: Engineering Update

The City has a digital project impacting all agencies to comply with some federal guidelines that will impact how our content is consumed from an accessibility standpoint. This means we are working on how our content is formatted and used through screen readers and any consumer who may need to access our content with accessibility features. Engineering's Public Information Officer Hannah Mohelnitzky is leading the project and is working with Engineering's approved web editors to comb through all Engineering content, which is hundreds of pages! All content has to fit the federal guidelines by April 2026.

First phase includes formatting of alt text of photos, headings, images, links and tables. We have not met yet as Hannah is currently combing through all pages to assess what is left for the approved web editors to take on as assignments. Once we have inventory on each page, there will be a meeting (likely end of June) to get through the rest of pages needed updating. The next phase will include a bigger heavy lift from editors, which includes updating documents to fit accessibility guidelines (ALL documents on our web). This includes a number of sites Engineering keeps updated (projects portal, main Engineering website, City's Flooding website, Contracts section.) There will be more information to come on the document portion of this process that we will discuss at upcoming meetings. If you have any questions about this process for Engineering, email hmohelnitzky@cityofmadison.com otherwise, you can submit a service ticket through IT anytime.

- [Checklist for reviewing content for accessibility](#)
- [Tip sheets on accessibility for the web](#)
- [Office hours dates](#)
- [Request web support](#)

Equity Blurp: June 2025

Written by Danielle Dixon

The equity team is made up of multiple different subgroups. This month we will be spotlighting our Sidewalk team.

A team lead by Brian Brannon utilized the equity analysis tool to figure out if the Engineering Division's sidewalk replacement program is equitably allocating resources to repair and replace sidewalks throughout the city.

Media Roundup

- [See inside Madison Public Market opening in November](#)
- [Warner Park Community Center Expansion Project Gets Support, UW Professor and Former Basketball Guard Involved](#)
- [Imagination Center at Reindahl Park Groundbreaking Ceremony](#)

News Releases

- [Royal Thai Pavilion Earns 2025 Historic Preservation Award](#) posted May 22, 2025
- [South Bedford Street Closure at North Shore Drive](#) posted May 8, 2025
- [Section of North Randall Avenue Closes Monday, May 12](#) posted May 7, 2025
- [Westbound Campus Drive Off-Ramp Closure at Highland Avenue](#) posted May 6, 2025
- [N Shore Drive Path & E Madison Bikeways Projects](#) posted May 2, 2025

Blogs

- None

City Press Conferences

- [News Conference: Imagination Center Groundbreaking May 8, 2025](#)
- [News Conference: Abundant Life Christian School Investigation Update May 8, 2025](#)
- [News Conference: 100,000 Street Tree Planting Event May 15, 2025](#)
- [News Conference: 150th anniversary of Madison Public Library May 17, 2025](#)
- [News Conference: Unveiling of Mural Trucks on May 20, 2025](#)

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

Imagination Center Groundbreaking

We were part of the groundbreaking and celebrating the work on the City's newest library in 25 years, our Imagination Center at Reindahl Park!



Here is the recording of the groundbreaking in case you missed it--- We'll also share again in the E for June!

[Imagination Center at Reindahl Park Groundbreaking Ceremony](#)

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

Waterways planning is underway. I met with the Stormwater Section to brainstorm content, and we've got a great lineup for this fall's issue. The Accessibility Digital effort for the City is underway for Engineering. I'm starting to go through all the pages to see where we stand and what work we need to do. Once I'm done combing through, I'll set up our first meeting to discuss assignments. We're working on a tentative ribbon cutting for Wilson Street completion. More info to come on that. Planning is underway for our next round of podcast recordings, and I'm looking forward to getting that up and running again! Next up for videos is a new Op 1 training internal video that I'm working with supervisors on. Please continue to send media requests directly to me as they come in!

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 Agriculture Dr, Ellis Potter Ct, 2025 resurfacing & citywide sidewalk/Curb & gutter. A public information meeting was held for North/South BRT & Davidson/Maher. Applications for federal funds for future street and path projects are due in June to MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) and staff are currently working on submittals.

Facilities Management

Bryan Cooper, Deputy City Engineer, Facilities Services and Management

- Substantially Complete > [Tenney Park Beach Shelter](#), [Rennebohm Park Shelter Restroom Renovation](#), [West Streets Facility HVAC and Lighting Upgrade](#)
- Construction Phase > [CDA Truax Apartments Solar PV](#), [Madison Public Market](#), [State Street Campus Garage Mixed Use Development](#), [Village on Park Parking Structure](#), [Country Grove Park Shelter](#), [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](#), [Streets Division - Far West Operations Building](#),
- Design Phase > [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

As the month barrels forward like a runaway tractor, our crews are in full swing. They're vacuuming up anything that even thinks about plugging sanitary or storm pipes or structures. Lift stations? Done for the spring. Siphons? Clean, clear, and no longer plotting against us.

Jason has unleashed the CCTV crews like a pack of high-tech raccoons, scouring the pipes for CMOM and other mystery projects from uptown. This stuff is crucial—it keeps Chris's construction crews busier than a squirrel in traffic. Honestly, without Chris and his team putting out underground "fires" we'd be in some serious sludge.

Speaking of fires, Jay has the MI-TE crew out smoothing sidewalks and proving that concrete is still harder than your Monday morning motivation. Meanwhile, John and the locator crew are playing real-life pipe hide-and-seek, ensuring we don't dig into a surprise geyser on the next job.

And let's not forget the mow crews, out there turning chaos into curb appeal and proving that Mother Nature can be trimmed into submission.

Operations are in peak season mode, folks—and we wouldn't have it any other (chaotic) way!

Stormwater

Janet Schmidt, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

The City has just recently purchased the lands for the future Yahara Clean Fill site, which will take the place of the Sycamore site once that is decommissioned in the next several years. At this time we are aiming to have it ready for use in summer/fall of 2027. Two large flood mitigations projects are getting underway soon; the Nakoma/Manitou box culvert (Phase 1) and the Capital City Bike path Storm Sewer (located downtown) are both scheduled to start up in earnest at the end of July. Nakoma/Manitou box culvert will have a second phase in 2026 to complete the portion of pipe on the Arboretum property. Stricker's pond forebay dredging and the Northeast Pond shoreline rehab work will be going to bid this summer. Stricker's pond forebay dredging will hopefully help our Operations staff from having to do cleanup work there every several years. We are including 4 catch basins to help keep the sedimentation in check. The Northeast Pond by Sun Prairie will help stabilize the eroded shoreline which has already caused the WDOT fence to fall over. That project will be bid in conjunction with the Tancho Bike path project. West Towne Pond will be getting reconstructed in the next few years and we have started on the design and modeling. We anticipate that project being bid in 2026/2027. The hydrogeologist position is heading into interviews at the end of May and early June. We are hoping to get that position filled by end of June or early July. There were a lot of applications so fingers crossed the interviews will go well. The Stormwater Ecological Restoration Specialist position is yet to be posted but we are hoping to see that posted at the end of June with potential for filling the position in early fall. This position will fill a void in our inspection of greenways, ponds, raingardens, etc so we are eager to get it filled. Happy summer to everyone!

Sanitary Sewer

Mark Moder, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

The WDNR has been taking their extra time for their reviews so please try to apply for sewer extensions early if you are able. I expect the WDNR to continue to take longer than their allotted 6 weeks this summer when reviewers take vacations. Private development is still steady with both infill site redevelopments and plat development design work. Private Development: Our focus on key apartment complex planned occupancy dates to hit in May of 2025 have been met with the sewers for 3401 E. Washington Ave (Gardners Bakery redevelopment) and 838 Williamson St. now in place. Our next development where we need to install sewers for is 1617 Sherman Ave. which we are waiting for Railroad permitting. We are most likely looking at a June or July bid for this project depending on when we receive a permit. Lift Stations Projects: Truax Lift Station Replacement is now up and running. The Badger Lift Station Replacement is not yet designed but construction is planned to begin late 2025/ early 2026. Mayflower L.S. is now under design in 2025 for 2026 construction with the CDA redevelopment on W. Badger Rd/ S. Park St.

Land Information/Official Map

Jeff Quamme, Section Manager

- Engineering Tech and IT are continuing to work the script for the Storm Water Billing. Final edits currently being vetted to make sure billings are consistent for the conditions of a property.
- Continued support with BRT project needs along Mineral Point Road for Utility rights to be released.
- Support of multiple engineering projects with research, easements, title and solutions regarding needs to accomplish many

City projects.

- Many 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. The data being verified has been truncated to allow for a shorter time required for point entry.
- 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.
- Always 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)
- 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 templates and forms first
- Wrapping up all of the PW front end contract documentation automated where possible, and into ACC.
- Researching BIM for facilities into CityWorks
- Working with Facilities on CityWorks process changes for PMs. Switching from WO to inspections
- 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, Heidi Fleegel, Isaac Gabriel

Common Council dates and Board of Public Works dates for June are:

Common Council resolution deadline was 8 a.m. on Tuesday, June 10 (CC meeting 6/17); Tuesday June 24 (CC meeting 7/1).

Board of Public Works resolution deadline is Noon on Wednesday, June 11 (BPW meeting 6/18); Wednesday, June 25 (BPW meeting 7/2).

Isaac steps into a new role as project coordinator in June and will be based out of Emil St. in Construction Inspection. He will continue to work with public works contracts and bid openings and providing administrative support. Congratulations, Isaac!

Finance

Steve Danner-Rivers, Financial Manager

Now that year end close, external audit and the 2026 Capital Budget submittal have been completed, the Finance section is currently gearing up for the 2026 Operating Budget which kicks off on June 16th. Section Heads should start thinking about their section's needs for 2026, especially any items that are not part of 2025's budget. Consideration should also be given to any reorganizations or changes in staffing that need to be incorporated for 2026. A little later in summer, we will also be working on the borrowing projections for 2025.

Construction Inspection

Kyle Frank, Principal Engineer Section

Permits, private development, and public works projects are continuing to progress with construction season well underway. Most 2024 carry over projects are being paved and wrapped up, while 2025 projects are continuing to move along. Surveyors are working on construction staking and working on completing surveys for 2026 projects. Completed interviews for a Project Coordinator position. Isaac Gabriel was selected and is tentatively scheduled to begin June 9 and will work along with Alane to learn the new position.

COMING AND GOING

- New Hires
 - Brandon Canaie (Conservation Ecology Trainee) (Sewer and Storm Water) (He/him)
 - Tawada Hodges (Custodial Worker 1) (Facilities) (He/him)
 - Jonah Nieves (Engineering Field Aide) (Construction Inspection) (He/him)
 - David Ngo (Engineering Field Aide) (Construction Inspection) (He/him)
 - Hailey Collins (Conservation Ecology Trainee) (Sewer and Storm Water) (She/her)
 - Wesley Tateh (Conservation Ecology Trainee) (Sewer and Storm Water) (He/him)
 - Sai Venkata (Engineering Assistant 2) (Construction Inspection) (He/him)
 - Zachary Gaier (Engineering Assistant 1) (Construction Inspection) (He/him)
 - Donquavon Brown (Conservation Ecology Trainee) (Sewer and Storm Water) (He/him)
 - Lindsay Vincent (Construction Inspection) (Construction Inspector 1) (She/her)
- Promotions
 - Isaac Gabriel (Current: Program Assistant 1 (Admin), Promotion: Project Coordinator (CI))
 - Seth Bauer (Current: Green Power Trainee, Promotion: Facilities Maintenance Trainee)
- Departures

- None
- Return
 - Vaughn Porter (Tech 1)

GEAR: The Engineering Division Intranet Site

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



Our Madison – Inclusive, Innovative & Thriving

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