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THE E.

A newsletter for the Engineering Division



May 2025 Issue

A message from your City Engineer, Jim Wolfe:

As you'll see below in this issue of the "E," it's public service recognition week! The City is celebrating in a variety of ways this week, but I also want to send out a Thank You to the entire Engineering Division for your hard work and dedication to serving the residents of Madison. With the wide array of services that we provide in Engineering, we make an impact in so many ways. Often, those impacts are a bit under-the-radar, but are vital to the everyday functions of the City, residents, businesses, and other agencies. Keeping the storm and sanitary sewers functioning properly, inspecting and monitoring construction projects, maintaining the closed landfills, designing infrastructure and facilities, implementing and maintaining energy efficiency improvements, working on outreach, and the list goes on. Your service is a big reason why Madison continues to be such a great place to live, work, and visit, and I so appreciate all of the work that you do!

-Jim

Thank you! It's Public Service Recognition Week!

City of Madison Human Resources Department Director Erin Hilson shared this message citywide via email ahead of Public Service Recognition Week:

Starting today and continuing all week, the Mayor's office will send recognition related messages to the incredible work that gets done in our thirty plus agencies. Seeing examples of this work is inspiring; seeing it in person every day on the streets of Madison is even more inspiring. THANK YOU.

On Wednesday, HR will bring cake to the agencies in the morning, and then hold a very special #TeamCity Awards Ceremony in the MMB Room 215 at noon. Please feel free to stop by and join the celebration. If you are one of the recipients – THANK YOU! If you are one of the nominators – THANK YOU! If you are neither – THANK YOU for all you do, and please take some time to nominate someone for the next #TeamCity awards on

the [#TeamCity Recognition Page](#).

A note about new employee bios

There are a lot of moving parts when we hire new employees. Getting to know new co-workers is important for onboarding, which includes welcome bios to be shared division wide. In addition to updating The E section "Coming and Going" each month, supervisors will be working with the new hires to distribute the welcome bio electronically via email. Supervisors can find the [welcome bio form on GEAR](#). In the past, these welcome bios have been shared in a variety of ways, and we're hoping this new way will be timelier and more consistent and will help us all welcome new folks to Engineering.

Equity Blurp: May 2025

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

A team lead by Lesley Parker improved the process by which registrants can sign up to speak at Board of Public Works meetings. The team worked with IT to create a webform on the BPW page to sign up for notifications when agendas are available and the webform for public comment goes live.

First Legistar Lunch and Learn a Success

There were over 50 attendees at the City's first Legistar Lunch and Learn.

The presentation is now available on the Budget [EmployeeNet](#) Page: [Legistar Lunch & Learn – Fiscal Notes](#)

If you have Legistar question or suggestions on future raining topics, complete [this survey](#). If you need immediate help with Legistar/ BCC issues, contact ENAdmin@cityofmadison.com

HR Newsletter Out: May 2025

This quarter's newsletter includes information about:

- Spotlight: Public Service Recognition Week
- Letter from the HR Director: Childcare Study Update
- Employee & Labor Relations (Benefits)
 - Improvements to Life Insurance Coverage
 - Welcome to Leah and Brittany, new ELR Team Members!
 - Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) Updates
- Organizational Development
 - City Affinity Groups
 - Expanded Onboarding Process + Resources for New Permanent Hires
 - New Change Management Team Training
 - End of Year Summaries Available
- HR-Services
 - Equitable Hiring Plan
 - Outreach Event Attendance
 - Compensation Study Update

[May 2025 HR Newsletter](#)

Media Roundup

**Channel 3000+ News**Live updates all day, breaking news as it happens and weather every 10 ...

Resize:  

Flooded street strands drivers on Madison's east side Thursday morning

Meryl Hubbard May 1, 2025



Ribbon cutting held for opening of Autumn Ridge Path in Madison

Caitlin Tylka Apr 16, 2025 Updated Apr 16, 2025 0



Channel 3000+ News

Live updates all day, breaking news as it happens and weather every 10 ...

City of Madison to cut ribbon on new Autumn Ridge Path next week

Kyle Jones Apr 8, 2025



WMTV 15 NEWS

Just in time for spring! New bike path opens on Madison's east side

MADISON, Wis. (WMTV) - If you are looking for a new bike path to take this spring, try Autumn Ridge Path! A ribbon cutting ceremony took...

3 weeks ago



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THE CAP TIMES

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NEWSLETTER



Madison Public Market Press Walk and Talk with Wisconsin State Journal

Take a look inside the City's Madison Public Market in this video:

<https://youtu.be/OiBIEkj8gNg>

Press Releases

- [Street Closure for New Chabad Jewish Center Grand Opening](#)
- [Roots Cause Sanitary Sewer Overflow, City Teamwork Leads to Fast Cleanup](#)
- [N Franklin Avenue & Lynn Terrace Reconstruction with Utilities Project](#)
- [Imagination Center at Reindahl Park Project Moves Forward; Bid Awarded](#)
- [Ramp Closure — Highway 30 Exit 1B – Fair Oaks Westbound Off Ramp](#)
- [Felland Road Closure Begins April 15](#)
- [Starker Avenue Resurfacing with Utilities Project](#)
- [Intersection Closure: Mid-Town Road and S. High Point Road](#)
- [Kick Off to Spring Biking Season, City Invites Public to Celebrate its New Autumn Ridge Path](#)
- [New Flooding Risk Map Available During WI Severe Weather Awareness Week](#)
- [Knutson Drive Reconstruction](#)

Blog

None

Press Conferences

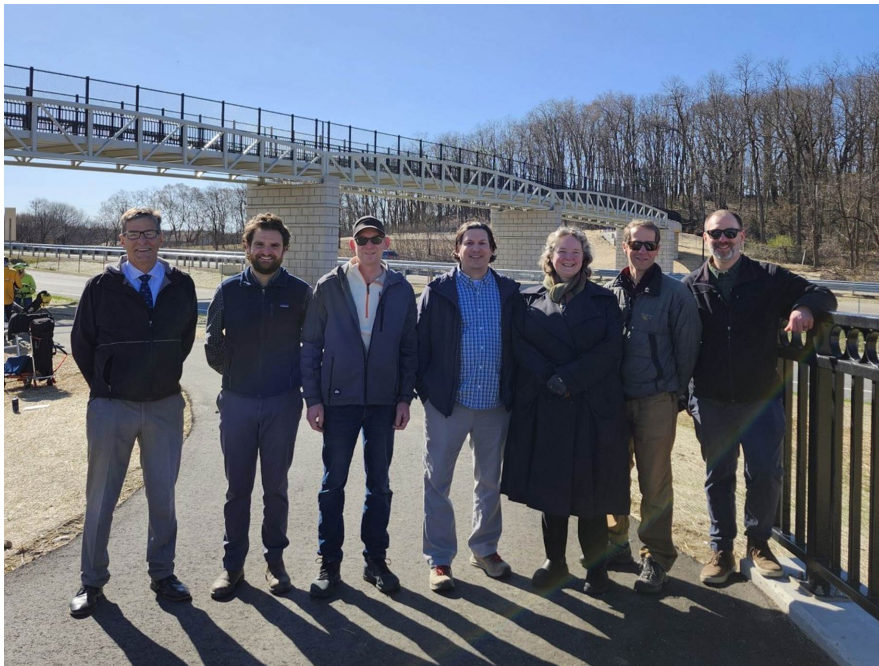
- [News Conference: Homeownership Celebration April 30, 2025](#)
- [News Conference: Kick Off to Spring Biking Season, City Celebrates New Autumn Ridge Path](#)

Podcast: Everyday Engineering on Apple iTunes and YouTube

Recording and planning underway for next batch of recordings.

Don't miss an upcoming episode! <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/madisons-everyday-engineering/id1476609194>

Autumn Ridge Ribbon Cutting







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

Video projects up next: How-To Training Public Information Meeting Video for GEAR, Finishing our Op 1/Maintenance Worker 1 Recruitment Video and wrapping up Engineering Division Communications Plans. I'll also be working on lining up our Accessibility meetings for our web teams and strategy as we head into summer. We had a minor flooding event with press on the east side. The OBR ENG Document is under final review and will be shared on GEAR division wide when complete. It is a complete list of public touchpoints and expectations for road reconstruction. Our Autumn Ridge Ribbon Cutting was a success, and press that was included with the event. This week is the ICRP Groundbreaking, another major project for us as a division and City. We also hosted a Madison Public Market press walk and talk with the Wisconsin State Journal.

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 128 Langdon, 4502 Regent, Shawnee Pass/Nakoma Sidewalk, Acacia Ridge Ph 13. Troy Dr/Green Ave, Buffalo Trl/Barron Ct/Green Lake Pass, E Main St/S Hancock St, Pflaum Rd were approved at Board of Public Works. A public information meeting was held for North/South BRT.

Facilities Management

Bryan Cooper, Deputy City Engineer, Facilities Services and Management

- Construction Phase > [CDA Truax Apartments Solar PV](#), [Tenney Park Beach Shelter](#), [Madison Public Market](#), [State Street Campus Garage Mixed Use Development](#), [Village on Park Parking Structure](#), [Rennebohm Park Shelter Restroom Renovation](#), [Country Grove Park Shelter](#), [West Streets Facility HVAC and Lighting Upgrade](#), [Bartillon Shelter](#), [WPCRC Expansion](#), [Hoover Boathouse Door, Window and Siding Replacement/Painting](#), [CCB – DCR Offices](#)
- Bidding/Contract Phase > [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](#)
- Design Phase > [Engineering Services Building Locker Room Renovation](#), [Central Library Lighting Retrofit](#), [Fire Station 8 Lighting Retrofit](#), [Metro Transit Phase 3B – Admin and Dispatch Facility Improvements](#)
- Planning Phase > [Streets Division - Far West Operations Building](#), [Madison Police Department – South District and Police Evidence Operations](#)

Operations – Sewer and Stormwater Utilities

Wayne Brown, Operations General Foreperson

Mow Baby Mow! That's the game plan as we roll into the season. Greenways all over the city are getting a fresh cut, and we've got John and his crew to thank for keeping things looking sharp. Stormwater catch basin cleaning is wrapping up, and the Vactor crews have been hustling to keep debris out of our lakes. Now that storm season is calming down, it's time to turn up the heat on sewer cleaning. We're diving into sewer mains, city lift stations, CCTV inspections, and MMSD siphons all the way through fall. Speaking of CCTV, Jason and his team are on a roll—getting the city's pipes on camera one main at a time. It's like Netflix for sewers (minus the popcorn), and it's helping us catch problems before they catch us!

Construction crews are also in full swing, tackling all kinds of special projects like point repairs, casting swaps, and pin-type installs. Willow Creek is on the docket to be cleaned as well. Chris and his squad have construction running like a well-oiled machine.

And let's not forget the MI-TE crew! They're out replacing sidewalk stones, and Jay's making sure everything goes smoothly with plenty of training and guidance. As always, Ops are out there every day, working hard to keep things flowing and prevent those pesky drainage issues from sneaking up on us.

Stormwater

Janet Schmidt, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

The Capital Budget has been submitted – lots of projects happening in the next few years! The storm group will be working on an RFQ to get a consultant on board to help design the Yahara Clean Fill site on Siggelkow Rd, which the City will be purchasing in early May. This site will hopefully be online and ready to use by summer 2027, and will take the place of the Sycamore clean fill site, which is almost at capacity. The hydrogeologist job is posted and we hope to get some good applicants. Interviews are expected within the month. This will fill the vacancy left by Brynn Bemis. We hoping to get our Stormwater Ecological Restoration Specialist posted soon. Hopefully we can get that position filled by the end of the summer so they are able to help with the fall restoration projects. Two large box culvert projects are scheduled for this summer. The Nakoma/Manitou Storm box was just put out for bids. We are hoping to start mid-to-late July. The Capital City Bikepath storm sewer is coming later in the summer with a start date in early August. We are gearing up for several dredging projects, which take a long time to plan and permit. We just completed Prairie Hills Pond Dredging and now we are working on Stricker's pond forebay and Warner Lagoon. Many other smaller scale dredge projects will be coming up in the next few years.

Sanitary Sewer

Mark Moder, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

2025 construction year is here to stay and design staff are very busy. Designers are reminded to stay on top of permitting- WRAPPS, Sewer Extension Permits, Wetland Permits. WDNR has been taking their extra time for their reviews so please try to apply for sewer extensions early and stay on top of the permitting if questions arise during the reviews. If you have water main encroachments, please make sure to address the WDNR's concerns as quickly as possible. We do not want to have project schedule delays as a result of a lack of permitting. 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 bid for this project. 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. will also be under design in 2025 for 2026 construction with the CDA redevelopment on W. Badger Rd/ S. Park St. Finally, the 2026 Capital Budget has been submitted.

Land Information/Official Map

Jeff Quamme, Section Manager

- Engineering Tech and IT are continuing to work the script for the Storm Water Billing. Much troubleshooting. Also new centerline ID use using Dane County ID's process is being vetted.
- Continued support with BRT project needs at Babcock and University
- Support of multiple engineering projects with research, easements, title and solutions regarding needs to accomplish many City projects. We are down a person for several weeks so please keep that in mind on projects involving Mapping.
- 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.
- Private development work is extensive including land rights reviews, acquisitions and releases with Real Estate projects.
- 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.

- Working with Real Estate to map historical unrecorded encroachment agreements and leases from their files. This will hopefully reduce the encroachment surprises on Engineering projects in the future.

Engineering Technology

Candice Kasprzak, Engineering Technology Manager

- Finalizing Address Point and storm billing workflows to work with new CAMA system
- 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.
- Working with TE on ACC workflows
- Researching BIM for facilities into CityWorks
- Working with Facilities on CityWorks process changes for PMs. Switching from WO to inspections
- 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 May are:

Common Council resolution deadline is 8 a.m. on Tuesday, May 13 (CC meeting 5/20); Tuesday, May 27 (CC meeting 6/3).

Board of Public Works resolution deadline is Noon on Wednesday, May 14 (BPW meeting 5/21); Wednesday, May 28 (BPW meeting 6/4).

Finance

Steve Danner-Rivers, Financial Manager

The Finance section has really been busy over the past several months with closing out 2024 and getting ready for annual financial audit.

Coordinating the 2026 Capital Budget has also more recently been a focus. Now that these major undertakings are complete, we return to focusing on 2025 and getting ready for the 2026 Operating Budget which will kick off on June 16.

Construction Inspection

Kyle Frank, Principal Engineer Section

Permits, private development, and public works projects are underway and progressing. Inspectors have been busy out on projects finalizing 2024 projects and the start of 2025 projects. Surveyors are working on construction staking and working on completing surveys for 2026 projects.

Completed interviews for Construction Inspector 1 with the goal of having new inspectors starting as soon as possible.

COMING AND GOING

New Hires

- William Kamps (MI-TE) (Operations)
- Erick Cisneros (MI-TE) (Operations)
- Mark Parrish (MI-TE) (Operations)

Departures

- Jose Rosas-Villegas

GEAR: The Engineering Division Intranet Site

Don't forget to bookmark GEAR today!

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



Our Madison – Inclusive, Innovative & Thriving

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