

From: [Mohelnitzky, Hannah](#)
Subject: The E: November 2025
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THE E.

A newsletter for the Engineering Division



November 2025 Issue

A message from your City Engineer

There are a couple of City-wide updates to pass along this month. But, first off, a huge THANK YOU to everyone involved with planning, setting up, cooking, ordering and delivering supplies, and cleaning up for our annual All Hands meeting at Emil St. in October. That's a significant effort from a lot of people, and I so appreciate that we're able to gather for that annual event. A special thank you to Hannah Mohelnitzky for coordinating the whole event, MCing, and preparing the awesome videos!

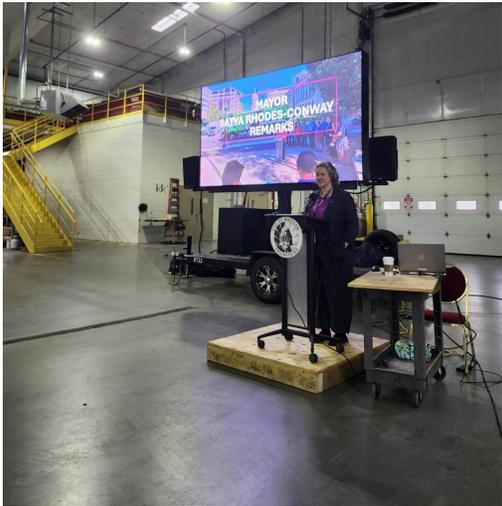
The City Employee Survey is now open for responses. This anonymous survey is available to all City employees, and the feedback received from this survey will be valuable for understanding employees' experiences and opinions regarding the City's overall culture and work environment and help identify issues that need to be addressed. The survey takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete, and I encourage all Engineering staff to provide their input. Links and information on the survey have been and will continue to be emailed out to everyone, and can also be found on the page. We're also nearing the end of the budget review and adoption period. The Capital and Operating Budgets will be going to the Common Council starting on November 11 for final approval.

Equity Blurb: November 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.

PHOTOS: 2025 All Hands Meeting Success, Thank You Engineering!







- [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](#)

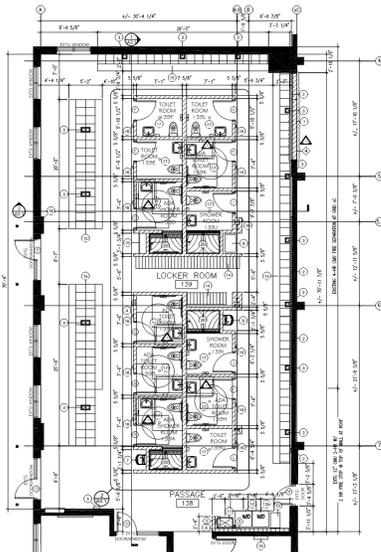
Coyote Johnson wins Parking Space in Locker Room Design Contest

**CONGRATULATIONS
COYOTE JOHNSON!**

Coyote submitted numerous designs and has been awarded a reserved parking space for the duration of locker room construction.

New Lockers at Emil Street, Construction to Begin

The new [Locker Room](#) at Emil Street will provide approximately 140 lockers and 12 private changing rooms. Of the 12 private rooms, 8 are restrooms and 4 are showering rooms. This model is similar to gender-neutral locker rooms used in recent Madison Fire Station designs.



As we prepare for construction of the new locker room, a temporary locker room and restroom facilities will be provided in the existing Lunch Room and Shop as shown in the attached plan.

- Showers will not be provided in the Emil Street temporary space during construction, but showers are available at

Streets West. More information to come for afterhours access.

- The kitchen is available for food preparation, but there is not a lunch room provided during construction.
- Supervisors will provide daily work assignments in designated areas of the shop every morning. Please allow time to prepare yourself for the workday and arrive to your designated shop area by 7:30 AM.

Consistent with [City of Madison Personnel Rules](#), and APMs [2-33](#), [2-52](#) and [3-5](#), users of the gender-neutral locker room and temporary facilities shall be good neighbors who clean up after themselves and assist each other to create positive habits. Personal items shall be collected from your assigned locker, taken to a private changing room and then returned to your assigned locker

General project schedule:

Oct. 7	Contractor/bid approval at Common Council
Oct. 13-29	Contractor contract routing and execution
Oct. 13-31	Preparation of temporary locker room and facilities
Nov. 3	Contractor mobilizes on site
April 30, 2026	Substantial Completion

Please use the front door or parking lot entry to the elevator lobby for entering and exiting starting November 3. Construction barriers will be installed the week of November 3 by the General Contractor. Staff shall not cross a construction barrier or enter the construction work area unless there is a life-threatening emergency or sounding fire alarm which requires emergency egress. Construction activity updates will be provided via email on a bi-weekly basis. Please bring any concerns to your supervisor.

City Hosts Classification and Compensation Study Results Meetings

Written by HR

For more information on the virtual sessions, please visit the City's [website](#).

HR has partnered with Baker Tilly to conduct a Classification and Compensation Study. This includes:

- A review of positions to ensure internal equity and external competitiveness within our labor market.
- A comparison of our benefits offerings.
- A review of our pay policies and pay practices.
- A review of pay equity with regards to gender, race, and age.

Process Outline

- The compensation and classification study will be completed in 6 phases, including:
 - Project Initiation
 - Market Assessment
 - Position Review
 - Pay Plan Development (We are currently here)
 - Additional Deliverables
 - Project Completion

See [FAQs](#) for more information

2025 Engineering Combined Campaign Chariry Drive Kicks Off

Written by Kong Vang

The annual Combined Campaign charity drive has kicked off! We are having another contest to help promote the campaign, raise money for a good cause, and to have some fun too!

This year our City Engineer's and several of the Deputy City Engineers' facial hair will be the victims!

- Jim would shave his beard off. Can Jim pull off a baby-face?
- Greg would grow out a full beard. Can you imagine Greg not having a neatly groomed goatee?
- Bryan would grow a mustache. Has Bryan ever tried growing a mustache?
- Chris would grow a mustache. Could there be a battle of the 'stache between Bryan and Chris?

How do you vote?

- Donate coin/cash in the voting jars by Kong's desk at Emil St. or in the breakroom area in the main office at the CCB
- Pledge through payroll deduction
- Each dollar is a vote, vote as much as you want!
- There will be two "winners" - the first place **and** last place finishers

Again, contributions made through [payroll deductions](#) CAN BE COUNTED in the contest voting! For example, if you make a \$10 per paycheck contribution, that equals \$260 over the year (26 pay periods). You get to pick which charities to give that money, too. And then you can also vote that \$260 towards the person(s) of your choice in our contest. That's huge bang for the buck and is the most effective way to contribute. When you set up the contribution, just let Kong Vang or Chase O'Brien know who you want your dollars counted against.

Cash proceeds from the contest will be donated to [United Way of Dane County](#) and [Thursday's Child](#) charities.

Kong will give updates on the tallies over the coming weeks so vote early and vote often! The contest runs through Tuesday, Dec. 2.

Consider Donating Non-Perishable Food Items in Emil Street Food Drive

A food drive to help our neighbors is being conducted at Emil St through the end of the year. Due to a recent government shutdown, many Wisconsin residents did not receive their November SNAP benefits on schedule. Food pantries across the state are seeing a dramatic increase in demand.

The most needed items include:

- Canned vegetables, fruit, meat, beans, soup,

- Pasta & sauce
- Rice, pasta & cereal
- Peanut butter
- Instant meals
- After school snacks

You can help keep food on the table by dropping off non-perishable food items in the Engineering Operations office. We will drop collected food off to Second Harvest on Fridays through the end of the year.

Citywide 2025 Employee Giving Campaign is officially underway!

Written by HR

This campaign holds profound significance as it demonstrates our collective commitment to social responsibility, while empowering individuals to contribute to causes that resonate with their values. Your participation is vital to this campaign's success.

As Madison and Dane County grow, the needs of our communities grow with them. Every donation, no matter the size, helps us to tackle the challenges ahead and make a positive difference in our community.

Please visit our [Campaign Website \(https://combined-campaign.danecounty.gov/\)](https://combined-campaign.danecounty.gov/).

Here you can:

- Learn about the [impact](#) your donated dollars can make
- Explore the [2025 Campaign Booklet](#)
- Make an [Online Pledge](#)

Printed pledge forms will be available through your department coordinator or [downloadable here](#). We will not have printed booklets this year. To view the list of charitable organizations, please see the [2025 Campaign Booklet](#).

Electronic pledging is a simple and convenient way to contribute to causes that matter most to you. Please consider a recurring pledge via payroll deduction.

The collective impact even a \$5 per paycheck gift can make is astonishing (\$5 x 27 pay periods x 3000 City employees = \$405,000)!

To login to pledge:

Username = Employee ID (4 or 5 digit number)

Password = wi + your birthdate in 6-digit form (Ex. March 2, 1989 is wi030289)

If you have any questions or encounter any issue with the website please reach out to publicsector@uwdc.org.

EAP Offers Free Short-Term Individual and Couples Counseling

Written by EAP

We're excited to share that the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is now offering **free confidential short-term individual and couples counseling** — up to **12 sessions**, with a **guarantee of 4 sessions**.

This is a great opportunity to get confidential support for personal, relationship, or work-related challenges in a safe and supportive space.

To schedule an intake appointment, call **608-266-6561** or email EAP@cityofmadison.com. Take a step toward your well-being — we're here to help.

Media Roundup

All Hands Meeting Videos

- FULL: [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](#)

News Releases

- [Nakoma Road Sidewalk Project Update](#) posted October 31, 2025
- [Packers Avenue to Reopen Friday, October 31](#) posted October 30, 2025
- [Closure of N 7th Street Starting Monday, November 3](#) posted October 30, 2025
- [Overnight Closures Scheduled for Northbound John Nolen Drive Next Week](#) posted October 22, 2025
- [Packers Avenue Closure for Railroad Crossing Replacement Begins October 27](#) posted October 17, 2025
- [Capital City Trail Storm Sewer Replacement Project Update](#) posted October 13, 2025
- [John Nolen Drive Reconstruction Begins Monday, October 13](#) posted October 6, 2025
- [Update - Nakoma Road Sidewalk Project](#) posted October 6, 2025

Blog

- [New Species Found in Grassman Ponds](#) posted October 31, 2025
- [Plant of the Week: Witchgrass](#) posted October 24, 2025
- [Plant of the Week: Big Bluestem](#) posted October 10, 2025

City Press Conferences

- [News Conference: Public Safety Briefing October 27, 2025](#)
- [News Conference: Swearing-In of Police Chief John Patterson October 22, 2025](#)
- [News Conference: 2026 Executive Operating Budget, October 7, 2025](#)

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

All Hands Success! What a great morning it was to see everyone in person. Thank you to EVERYONE who attended and every person who made the event happen. It's a big lift each year, but it gets easier knowing I've got a great team to work with to get everything done. We've got a nice charge to the new year with a few public information meetings, lots of web updates, especially as winter looms. John Nolen Drive outreach is underway as construction has officially started, and there are a lot of eyes on our projects. Please continue to email me your photos, project photos so I can share them out. I'll be working on buttoning up communications plans and focusing on starting an Ops video in three languages.

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 Hill Valley Ph 2, Mid Point Meadows Ph 2. Public Meetings for 2026 projects have begun and were held on Pflaum & Pontiac. Pflaum and Pontiac went to Transportation Commission and will head to Board of Public Works and Council in the coming months.

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

Jason Kelley, Public Works General Foreperson – CCTV & Trenchless Rehab

October was a month of preparation for OPS.

- Vactor crews are staying up on PMs, while wrapping up “hard to get” ACs for 2025. Emergency backups are at 10 for the year, while crews are busy assisting CCTV Operators.
- CCTV crews have been completing Sanitary Lateral Abandonments (weather permitting), New Construction projects, Trenchless Repairs, Special Requests & targeting CMOM inspections
- Construction is busy wrapping up Waterway projects for 2025, but also plugging away at Open Cut Repairs that are on the schedule
- Locators have been completing Tree Locates for the Fall season
- Patch/inlets crews are looking pretty good
- Mi-TE is getting toward the end of their season

Enjoy the rest of the fall season. Winter is right around the corner!



Stormwater

Janet Schmidt, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

November is here and so is the end of construction season. Or is it?? Maybe not! We still have the Capital City Trail storm sewer work that is progressing very quickly and will hopefully wrap up before the snow flies. Stricker's pond forebay dredging is just starting up and will continue into 2026. Pheasant Branch Greenway Enhancement on the westside is wrapping up with some restoration and landscaping work. That project will start up again in the spring with more pipe work on Deming Way near Blackhawk Road, and should be done by summer of 2026. Our Ecological Restoration Specialist, Theran, has been busy working with developers to get their ponds planted and restored for the season and our eco crew is out busily collecting native seeds for next year. We have a lot of watershed studies that will be wrapping up by the end of the year or early in 2026, which will really leave us with a small handful to complete before the entire City is done. What a huge undertaking so thank you to all that are involved with getting this initiative done! The West Towne Pond project is starting to pick up with some preliminary designs and modeling to determine the best configuration. With such a big project we are hoping to get some additional grant funding to help offset some of the cost. A Public meeting will be coming up in the next couple months. I'm sure the designers are hoping to catch a little break over the holidays but we will be right back at it with more private development work and public works projects coming up for 2026. In the meantime hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving.

Sanitary Sewer

Mark Mader, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

The 2025 City street projects that include sewer replacement are now under construction or are now completed. The 2026 street projects are now assigned or are now under design. Please plan to walk your street reconstruction sites before we get snow. We know that it will be here soon. The WDNR sewer extension reviews continue to move at a faster rate of late (4 weeks). I would still plan on the full 6 weeks from when the WDNR receives it and sends us the acknowledgement of receipt. Please continue to try to apply for sewer extensions early if you are able and quickly respond to any concerns. 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 Fordem to E. Johnson St., but we are still waiting for the Canadian Pacific Railroad. 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 is now partially designed with construction is planned for Winter bidding and 2026 construction. Mayflower L.S. is now under design for 2026 construction with the Badger Road CDA redevelopment. Alaina, Ryan and Eric are preparing the Request For Proposal (RFP) for the City-wide sanitary sewer model which will be underway in 2026. There has been an extensive amount of work put into this, and it is definitely appreciated. The City- Wide 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.

Land Information/Official Map

Jeff Quamme, Section Manager

- Storm Water Billing Script data is still being vetted between IT and the Assessor's Office. This is to correct some of the site data that flows to the data set that is used for the storm water billing script and eliminate much of the current tracking of data.
- Beginning 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
- S High Point TPP resolution and wrapping up the Transportation Project Plat.
- 911 Address Point population is ongoing along with all other addressing demands throughout the City.
- Private development related work is beyond the normal limits. 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.)
- Updating and bringing the Annexations in GIS data up to date.
- Mapping for future areas of Blooming Grove to attach in 2027 as time permits.
- Continued consistent updating of base mapping with new documents researched daily in house.
- 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

- 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
- 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
- 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, Heidi Fleegel, Jenna Webb

There is just one Common Council meeting and Board of Public Works meeting in November. If you have a legislative item that needs to go to Common Council, the deadline is 8 a.m. on Tuesday, November 18th. (CC meeting 11/25)
Board of Public Works resolutions are due by 12 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12th. (BPW meeting 11/19)

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 are now scheduled for Council Amendments and Adoption on November 11-13. 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!). All efforts to help with these tasks are greatly appreciated.

Construction Inspection

Kyle Frank, Principal Engineer Section

Public Works projects are wrapping up as Inspectors and Contractors are pushing to finish Capitol City Trail Storm, Evergreen/Sommers, and Nakoma/Manitou/Shawnee in mid-November. Private development work will continue into the fall and 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. Spec updates are ongoing. Fall contractors meeting is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 19.

Coming and Going

- Coming
 - Gretchen Aviles Pineiro (she/her) (Public Works and Private Development Manger 2)
 - Katy Lisseth (she/her) Custodial Worker 1)
- Promotion
 - Emma Almy (Engineer 3, Construction Inspection)
 - Shawn Beer (Engineer 3, Construction Inspection)
- Departures
 - Mark Parrish (MI-TE Trainee, Operations)

GEAR: The Engineering Division Intranet Site

Don't forget to bookmark GEAR today!

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



Our Madison – Inclusive, Innovative & Thriving

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