

**From:** [Mohelnitzky, Hannah](#)  
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**THE E.**  
*A newsletter for the Engineering Division*



**April 2025 Issue**



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

Later this month, City agencies will be submitting their initial Capital Budget requests for 2026, and a lot of folks within Engineering are currently working on preparing the budgets for the 6 different capital budgets for the Engineering Division. The Capital Budgets include the priorities for our project work for next year, and also include an early look at the 5 years following (out to 2031). First off, thank you to everyone that is putting so much time and effort into preparing these budgets! After submitting our initial budgets this month, those go through a review period, we make requested adjustments, and final versions get included with the Mayor’s Executive Budget, which is announced in early September before going through Finance Committee and Common Council for adoption.

-Jim



**Royal Thai Pavilion Revival Earns 2025 Restoration Award from Madison Trust for Historic Preservation**

Congratulations to Amy Scanlon, Olbrich Gardens, the architect consultant team, and the construction team! Read all about it: <https://www.madisonpreservation.org/2025-award-recipients>

## Women in Construction Week 2025: Share Their Stories!



**Molly Berkholtz**  
Parks

**Sarah Johns**  
Madison Water Utility

**Renee Callaway**  
Traffic Engineering

**Emma Almy**  
Engineering

**Taletha Skar**  
Information Technology

## Women in Construction Week 2025

March 2-8, 2025

Learn more on the City of Madison Engineering Division Facebook, X, YouTube and website for videos, written stories and photos of each unique journey and career path.

We had an awesome lineup of profiles for this year's Women in Construction Week 2025. We've heard fantastic feedback from different divisions, departments, co-workers and community partners. It's a really cool tradition we've led for six years, and each year is new thanks to the incredible women sharing their career journeys. Please take a moment to read or watch their journey, or even better, share with someone you think could benefit from some inspiration!

- [Molly Berkholtz, Conservation Technician, City of Madison Parks Division](#)
- [Sarah Johns, Field Service Representative, Madison Water Utility](#)
- [Emma Almy, Engineer, City of Madison Engineering Division](#)
- [Renee Callaway, Assistant Director, City of Madison Traffic Engineering Division](#)
- [Taletha Skar, Fiber Manager, City of Madison Information Technology](#)

## Equity Minute: April 2025

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

room Policy team.

A team lead by **Hattie Russell** created a draft of a use policy and standards of behavior for the upcoming gender neutral locker-room that will be built at our Engineering Operations location. This team will continue into the new year meeting with Emil Street Employees to get their input and finalize the policy and standards once construction starts in Fall 2025.

## It's GETY's Season! Nominate a Coworker Making a Difference

The Gender Equity Team is excited to announce the kickoff of a quarterly recognition program we are calling the GETY Awards. This recognition program is an opportunity for you to nominate a coworker or colleague who has made a significant impact. Each quarter, we'll send out an email highlighting the GETY recipients and the positive contributions they've made to our workforce.

### About the GETYs:

The City of Madison's Gender Equity Team (GET) aims to celebrate and honor outstanding employees who have made important contributions to the workplace this year. Employees can be nominated for their efforts in enhancing work culture, breaking barriers, challenging stereotypes, offering innovative solutions, and advocating for a better work environment for all city staff. The GETY Awards recognize those who go above and beyond in fostering an inclusive, supportive, and forward-thinking workplace.

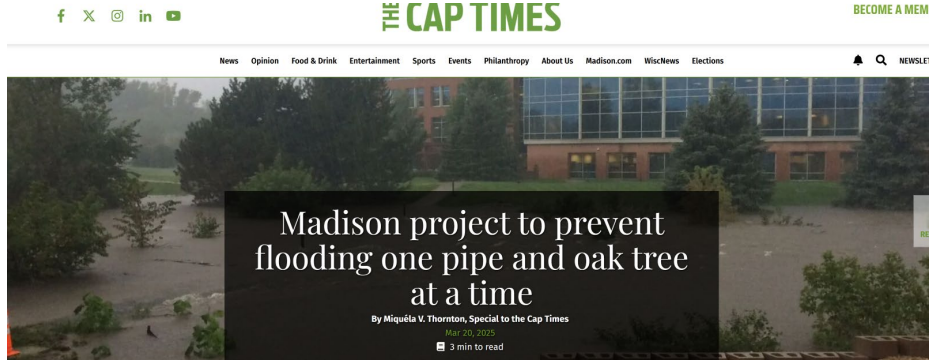
### How to submit a nomination:

Complete the survey form at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9KQGYB> by close of business on April 4, 2025. We're thrilled to spotlight more outstanding employees each quarter! Kindly help us spread the word by sharing this with your colleagues. Additionally, please feel free to print and display it in your area for those who do not have access to the city's email. The QR code below will take you to the survey.



## Media Roundup

### Media Roundup



The screenshot shows a news article from 'THE CAP TIMES'. The article title is 'Madison project to prevent flooding one pipe and oak tree at a time'. The author is 'By Miquela V. Thornton, Special to the Cap Times'. The date is 'Mar 20, 2025' and it is '3 min to read'. The article features a photograph of a flooded area with a large building in the background.

In 2018, when Madison experienced a major flood event with two times more water than a typical 100-year flood, the Pheasant Branch watershed on [the far west side](#) was particularly hard hit.

Read the full story: [https://captimes.com/news/madison-project-to-prevent-flooding-one-pipe-and-oak-tree-at-a-time/article\\_55d6ec02-e0e6-439c-8b9b-3d6d37ca70d2.html](https://captimes.com/news/madison-project-to-prevent-flooding-one-pipe-and-oak-tree-at-a-time/article_55d6ec02-e0e6-439c-8b9b-3d6d37ca70d2.html)

# Madison Public Market opening delayed to late fall

By Kayla Huynh  
Mar 31, 2025



Read full story: [https://captimes.com/news/local/madison-public-market-opening-delayed-to-late-fall/article\\_e7109255-0847-4dbd-9360-b92c06a745b0.html](https://captimes.com/news/local/madison-public-market-opening-delayed-to-late-fall/article_e7109255-0847-4dbd-9360-b92c06a745b0.html)

## News Releases

- [Update: Street Closure - East Wilson Street April 2 to mid-June](#)
- [Update: Street Closure - 100 Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard at Doty Street](#)
- [Women in Construction Week 2025: Taletha Skar](#)
- [Women in Construction Week 2025 Profile: Renee Callaway](#)
- [Women in Construction Week 2025: Molly Berkholtz](#)
- [Women in Construction Week 2025: Sarah Johns](#)
- [Women in Construction Week 2025: Emma Almy](#)

## Blog

None

## 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>

## HR Re-Introduces Take Your Children to Work Day

**TAKE  
OUR  
CHILD(REN)  
TO WORK DAY!**

**24 APRIL, 2025**  
START AT 8:00AM

**Schedule Overview:**  
8:00 am - Breakfast & Welcome from Mayor  
9:00 am - Activities at Central Library  
11:30 am - Transportation to Fleet for Lunch  
1:00 pm - Demonstrations & Tours at Fleet  
3:00 pm - Transportation to Central Library

Additional details found by scanning the QR Code below.

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED!**

Please do so by scanning the QR code, or visiting:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TOCTWD2025>

Registration closes on April 3, 2025 or when event capacity is reached.

Many of you remember Take Our Children to Work Day which was previously sponsored and fully planned by the Gender Inclusion Team prior to COVID. A huge THANK YOU to GET for their work for so many decades. After COVID, Take Our Children to Work Day went on a lengthy hiatus but....it's back!

Human Resources has been working with multiple other agencies to get an event scheduled for Take Our Children to work day, with programming in the morning at the Library and vehicle and other demonstrations in the afternoon at the Fleet building. If you have a child who is 8 and above and would like to participate, please obtain supervisor approval and fill out the registration located at this surveymonkey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TOCTWD2025>.

Only the first 100 participants to register will be eligible to participate. The event goes from 8:30 to 4:30 on Thursday, April 24, 2025.

We are grateful for GET's continued participation in our planning, for the many agencies who are helping support this, and for the Unions and Associations who are helping sponsor for participants a light breakfast that morning at the Library, including IAFF Local 311, Local 6000, Teamsters Local 120, and MPSEA. Lunch is being coordinated as a cookout at the Fleet building.

## 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*

Alder Onboarding Videos and materials are complete. MI-TE Updated Recruitment Video Complete, I'm halfway through editing our new CDL Training Video. On deck: 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've been getting quite a few media requests lately, please continue to forward to me, and thank you to all who have made 10-15 minutes time (or more) to be available for these interviews. I'm also working toward Waterways Planning for fall, and an upcoming ribbon cutting for Autumn Ridge. We'll also be pushing our new Flooding Map available to the public in the next couple weeks for Severe Weather Awareness Week. We also completed an OBR –ENG document inventory of all public touchpoints for road construction. That is in the hands of Doc Services to create a nice electronic document that will soon be posted on GEAR for all.

### Public Works and Private Development

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

A very busy month! 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 Dutch Mill/Ellestad Dr, Evergreen/Ohio/Sommers, Bartillon Path, Safe Streets Madison, Eagle Trace Ph 8, 1235 Regent, 2025 Bridge Repairs. John Nolen Dr, Resurfacing 2025, was approved at Board of Public Works. A public information meeting was held for E Main/Hancock, S High Point Rd, Pflaum Rd, Buffalo & Davidson projects.

### 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

*John Toso, Operations General Foreperson*

Vector crews continue working through their PM's and have started Spring storm catch basin cleaning. CCTV and Vector crews continue to work well with each other, busy with CMOM and special projects.

Construction crews have been busy with sanitary point repairs, dredging projects, and replacing pin type sanitary castings.



With the warmer weather just around the corner crews will start getting equipment ready for the 2025 mow season!

### **Stormwater**

*Janet Schmidt, Principal Engineer, Section Manager*

Design season is very busy this year! But everyone is doing a great job keeping up. Budget is officially kicked off and we will be working on getting our projects lined up for the upcoming years. The official Capital Budget submittal will be in Mid-April. Our watershed studies are progressing with several final PIMs coming up in the next month. We are going to be re-launching the Starkweather Creek watershed study after some fits and starts with our last consultant. Hopefully we can get that RFP out in the next month to restart that study. The Starkweather study will be the largest of our studies covering a significant portion of the east side. The storm group will be working on a RFQ to get a consultant on board to help design the Yahara Clean Fill site, 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 site, which is almost at capacity. The hydrogeologist job is posted and we hope to get some good applicants. We are working on posting a job for a Stormwater Ecological Restoration Specialist who will assist in the design and inspection for the stormwater projects. We are hoping to fill this position by this summer.

### **Sanitary Sewer**

*Mark Moder, Principal Engineer, Section Manager*

2025 construction year is here, and design staff are very busy. Designers are reminded to stay on top of permitting- WRAPPS, Sewer Extension Permits, Wetland Permits. WDNR and CARPC have been taking their full-time allotment for their reviews so please try to apply for sewer extensions early. 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: We continue to focus on key apartment complex planned occupancy dates to hit in May of 2025: 3401 E. Washington Ave. (Gardners Bakery redevelopment) and 838 Williamson St. The Commercial Ave. (Hwy 30) sewer crossing project which is also associated with the Gardners Bakery site redevelopment is now under construction. Two additional apartment developments in this E. Washington Ave/(Gardners Bakery) corridor are now being proposed so there will likely be additional sewer projects required. Sewer improvements for 838 Williamson Street- Paterson St Sewer Replacement is now under construction. Fordem Ave.- First St. Sewer Replacement for 1617 Sherman Ave., will not be bid until we have all of the Railroad Permitting. We are most likely looking at a June bid. Lift Stations Projects: Truax Lift Station Replacement construction is nearing completion. 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 Budget will result in a very busy planning season until Mid-April.

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

*Jeff Quamme, Section Manager*

- Continuing review and coordination with Engineering Tech and IT regarding the script for the Storm Water Billing.
- Continued support with BRT project needs
- Support of multiple engineering projects with research, easements, title and solutions regarding needs to accomplish many City projects.
- As is always typical, continued coordination of multiple Real Estate projects, vacations, research and relocation orders for several engineering, planning, transportation and water projects
- With additional help from Engineering Tech, 911 Address Point population is being expedited.
- Private development work is extensive including land rights reviews, acquisitions and releases with Real Estate projects.
- Address point validation work being completed with the 911 Address point project.
- 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*

- 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
- Getting all of the PW front end contract documentation automated where possible, and into ACC.
- Trained inspectors on new IRA workflow using ACC, trying to eliminate as much paper and dual entry as possible
- Working with ITPipes to get manhole inspections in
- 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 with other Public Works agencies to get CW and GIS updated
- Working with IT and other public works agencies on GIS upgrades, training and governance

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 April are:

- Common Council resolutions deadline is April 8, by 8 AM (CC meeting on 4/15)
- Board of Public Works resolutions deadline is Wednesday, April 9 by NOON (BPW meeting on 4/16)

In March, we attended the city-offered training, Service and Support Animals in Public Places. We are ready to provide people with disabilities excellent customer service in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Wisconsin state statute – which includes greater protections than the ADA. The training is recommended for anyone who interacts with the public. A copy of the [presentation slide deck](#) is available on the Organizational Development web page.

#### Finance

*Steve Danner-Rivers, Financial Manager*

The Finance section has finished closing out 2024 and is now preparing for the external audit which occurs in April. The 2026 Capital Budget recently kicked off, with submittals by the Section Heads due 4/11. The Cost to Continue phase of the 2026 Operating Budget begins on 3/31, with the official budget kick off happening on 6/16.

#### Construction Inspection

*Kyle Frank, Principal Engineer Section*

Many 2025 public works projects are scheduled to begin construction, as well a number of plats starting the weeks of 3/31 & 4/7. Inspectors have been busy out on projects that have already started as continuation projects from 2024. The Assistant Construction Engineer position has been filled with new roles/promotions for Shawn Beer and Emma Almy. Shawn will be leading west and Emma leading east, with both covering central projects. Their new role will be mainly field orientated with them managing and leading projects and Inspectors, while some of the more administrative aspects of Bryan Manning's old position being taken over by myself. 2024 project finalizations are still ongoing but should be wrapping up soon. Inspection of greenways have all been completed.

## Coming and Going

- New Hires
  - Kathleen Kane (Public Works Development Manager 2) (Sewer and Stormwater)
  - Rebecca Qureishi (Public Works Development Manager 1) (Sewer and Stormwater)
  - Sawyer Vitale-Hughes (Green Power Trainee) (Facilities)
  - Sarah Ninedorf (Green Power Trainee) (Facilities)
  - Lucy Guerin (Green Power Trainee) (Facilities)
  - Christoher Waskow (SSMW1) (Ops)
- Promotions
  - Laura Amundson (Architect 3) (Facilities) (Former: Architect 2)
  - Kongmeng Vang (Accountant 1) (Ops) (Former: Accountant 1 Trainee)
- Departures
  - James Voeck

## GEAR: The Engineering Division Intranet Site

Don't forget to bookmark GEAR today!

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



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