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THE E.

A newsletter for the Engineering Division



February 2025 Issue

A message from your City Engineer, Jim Wolfe:

It has been a busy start to 2025 in Engineering. We achieved a major milestone when the Stormwater Lands Vegetation Management Plan was approved by the Board of Public Works in January. This new policy will help us provide consistent, equitable services on our lands city-wide for the foreseeable future. Our Technology group is also working hard to make some major improvements to our systems including Autodesk Construction Cloud (ACC) - with further build outs for our Construction Inspection, public works contract documents, and private development agreements, and we're also working with colleagues in Water Utility and IT on an upgrade to Cityworks, which will be coming later this year. Lots of exciting developments to come!

-Jim

Meet Our 2025 Class of Women in Construction Week Profiles



We

are entering our **sixth year** of celebrating Women in Construction here at the City of Madison! We've shared 27 awesome career journeys and stories in video, written bio and photo form so far, and we are excited to bring this back again this year to raise awareness about all the different ways and careers to get involved in construction. Each day of WIC Week, we'll post one profile story/video/photo to feature.

[Women in Construction Week is March 2-8, 2025.](#)

This year for nominations, we're proud to announce we'll be featuring the stories of the following:

- **Emma Almy**, Public Works and Private Development Engineer, Engineering Division
- **Molly Berkholz**, Conservation Technician, Parks Division
- **Renee Callaway**, Assistant Director, Traffic Engineering Division
- **Sarah Johns**, Meter Shop/Field Service Rep., Madison Water Utility
- **Taletha Skar**, Fiber Manager, Information Technology

Wondering what we've done in the past? Take a look here:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/about/women-in-construction-week>

Couple of past press examples:

WMTV: Construction Inspector: <https://www.wmtv15news.com/content/news/A-week-dedicated-to-raising-awareness-about-women-in-the-construction-industry-568396621.html>

WKOW: Construction Manager: https://www.wkow.com/news/celebrating-women-in-construction-week-with-a-madison-construction-manager/article_7015a4c4-db9a-11ee-bfff-f78c0906fa11.html

WISC: https://www.channel3000.com/news/local-news/city-of-madison-celebrates-women-in-construction/video_def47460-b495-5416-96a4-87e0c88b5ca9.html

WISC: https://www.channel3000.com/in-the-608-madison-celebrates-women-in-construction-week/video_dff4c1b0-ebc1-5571-a5e6-c73411705487.html

Scheduling Public Information Meetings Reminder

We are in our busy season for construction planning, which also includes scheduling Public Information Meetings. Check out the [Public Engagement section](#) of GEAR to help make planning your meeting smooth. There is also a page that lists all dates we **CAN NOT** schedule on:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/employeeet/engineering/communications/public-engagement-program/2025-meeting-schedule-and-council>

I will add these into my calendar for booking to help avoid conflicts.

Miss Winter Salt Week? Watch the Webinars On Demand

MONDAY: An Eye on Salt Pollution: <https://youtu.be/vPjg9wRLCo>

TUESDAY: Dilution is NOT the solution: <https://youtu.be/TQ5vjIGkAA>

WEDNESDAY: Public Works Perspectives (There are 7 different livestreams from different states at the same time here!) <https://wintersaltweek.org/public-works-perspectives/>

THURSDAY: Policy Solutions Panel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-KQYsYxDbUI>

FRIDAY: Local Salt Monitoring: <https://wintersaltweek.org/>

Mayor Blog Highlights Engineering Division and GreenPower Program in End of Year Sustainability Wins

In April 2024, the City of Madison achieved a significant milestone by [surpassing 2 megawatts \(MW\) of behind-the-meter solar energy capacity](#). This achievement marks another step forward in the City's commitment to installing 10 MW of solar by 2030. This accomplishment is part of the City's broader efforts to expand its renewable energy infrastructure, with [over 6,200 solar panels](#) now installed across City facilities. The GreenPower Program played a key role in facilitating these installations by providing workforce training and employing participants in the installation of solar systems. [Read the full blog from the Mayor's Office posted on the City's website.](#)

Equity Minute: February 2025

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

- The team is led by Taylor Lemon and in 2024 the team started on the creation of training plans for all positions in our Operations Section, in an effort to better onboard new employees and better prepare them to compete for promotional opportunities. This team has completed a training plan for SSMW1's and Op 1's. They will be continuing into the new year and creating more training plans.

City's HR Quarterly Newsletter Available

The City of Madison HR Quarterly [newsletter is now available on the HR website.](#)

This quarter's newsletter includes information about:

- **Partner Pipeline Program**
- **Employee & Labor Relations (Benefits)**
 - New Documentation Requirements for Health Insurance
 - Upcoming Life/Wage Insurance Survey
- **Organizational Development**
 - 2024 Leadership Gathering Overview
 - 2024 Work Planning Overview
 - Meet Our New L+D Specialist
- **HR-Services**
 - Eliminating the Request to Fill
 - Government Jobs
 - Outreach Events

Media Snapshot: January 2025

News Releases

[City of Madison's State Street Campus Garage Mixed-Use Project Moves into Phase Two of Construction](#) posted January 14, 2025

Blogs

None

Everyday Engineering Podcast

NEW Episode: Ep 75. Please, Just Don't Do it: Illicit Dumping

WATCH: <https://youtu.be/txuw46hHrYY>

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



Concrete and paint—two things, among many, that should not go down the storm drain. However, unfortunately they do. It's not only residents who are responsible for illicit dumping, but people you hire to clean your home, carpets, painting and more. City of Madison Engineering Division Public Information Officer Hannah Mohelnitzky hosts City of Madison Engineering Division Water Resource Engineer to talk about illicit dumping, the fines you can be charged for something a contractor does at your home and the questions you can ask before you hire someone to perform work.

Calling #TeamCity Nominees For February

#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 Tuesday, March 4. Please submit nominations using one of the attached forms, which are being accepted through Tuesday, Feb. 11 to be considered for this ceremony, and can be sent by email to iuludag@cityofmadison.com or by Inter-D to Fleet HQ, 4151 Nakoosa Trail. Nominations are also accepted at any time on a rolling basis.

VIDEO: Sauk Creek Walk and Talk

<https://youtu.be/XZvo6x5gDPg>



This is a great example of showing the WHY we're doing a project. While a lot of projects seem to be pretty straightforward to us in Engineering, sometimes the community may not understand the reasoning as to WHY we're doing the project. Video is a great tool in our toolbox that we can use to showcase and connect in a visual way with the community.

Take a walk with City of Madison Engineering Division stormwater engineer Jojo O'Brien and ecologist Maddie Dumas to learn about what the City is doing to improve the Sauk Creek Greenway. Stay updated on the project page:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/projects/sauk-creek-greenway>

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 currently working on a number of video projects: MI-TE Updated Recruitment Video, CDL Training Video, Practical Test Training Video, Alder Onboarding Video and Materials, How-To Training Public Information Meeting Video for GEAR, Women in Construction Week Video/Photo (x 5), Op 1/Maintenance Worker 1 Recruitment Video, Engineering's first Annual Report, 2024/2025 Engineering Division Communications Plans.

Public Works and Private Development

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

Public works engineers are beginning to work on 2025 projects. Private development Engineers and Managers continue to service contracts and issue plan sets. Plans issued this month include Sidewalk District 20, Midpoint Meadows, 415 N Lake St, Franklin Ave, North Shore Dr Path, 4687 Verona Rd & 517 W Main. Nakoma Sidewalk, Shawnee Pass & Hermina Ped/Bike Bridge was approved at the Board of Public Works. A public information meeting was held for Midvale Blvd.

Facilities Management

Bryan Cooper, Deputy City Engineer, Facilities Services and Management

1. 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](#)
2. Bidding/Contract Phase > [CCB – DCR Offices](#), [Olin Waste Transfer Waste Drop-off Site](#)
3. Design Phase > [Imagination Center at Reindahl Park](#), [Engineering Services Building Locker Room Renovation](#), [Central Library Lighting Retrofit](#), [East Streets Maintenance Facility Fire Sprinkler Replacement](#), [Fire Station 8](#)

[Lighting Retrofit, Metro Transit Phase 3B –Admin and Dispatch Facility Improvements, Village on Park Improvements](#)

4. Planning Phase > [Streets Division - Far West Operations Building, Madison Police Department – South District and Police Evidence Operations](#)

Operations – Sewer and Stormwater Utilities

Ryan Schmidt, Operations Supervisor

Vactor crews continue to work through the AC and PM maintenance work orders for January, crews are close to wrapping up with their first month of PM cleaning work orders of 2025.

Long stretches of cold weather may not be best suited for the Vectors, but it does provide opportunities to complete other work. Mowing crews have been mowing sites that are not accessible other times of the year. Construction crews are dredging sites that would require a lot of additional setup time if it weren't for the cold weather, the frozen ground allows access to channels and cunnettes with the large equipment often needed to complete the work. Additionally, construction crews continue to work on smaller sanitary repairs, and pin type casting replacements.

CCTV crews continue to work on CMOM work orders, PM work orders, and any special projects/requests.

All crews are patiently waiting for Mother Nature to press the catch-up button with snow, we are ready to run our routes when it decides to snow again.

Stormwater

Janet Schmidt, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

The Stormwater Utility Vegetative Management Plan was accepted by the Board of Public Works just a few weeks ago. Nice work for all those involved and especially Sarah Lerner for getting that huge project done! Sauk Creek Corridor Plan saw it's last PIM in mid-January. Another huge effort lead by Jojo O'Brien! Lots of people were involved in getting the plan to it's current state. The next step is working through the approval process. Design for the Capital City Storm Sewer and Manitou / Nakoma Box culvert replacement are going strong. These were 2 "surprise" projects that we had to fit in due to the failing infrastructure. Pheasant Branch Greenway Enhancement and Prairie Hills Dredging are moving along now for winter construction. All our watershed studies are also progressing nicely. With Kyle Frank's promotion to Construction Engineer (Congratulations Kyle!) we will be looking at reshuffling some duties and getting his position filled. Conservation Ecology Trainee hourly positions will be posted shortly and we will also be working on filling Brynn Bemis' position with a full time position. So expect to see some new faces in the upcoming months!

Sanitary Sewer

Mark Moder, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

Hello February! Hopefully, the groundhog gives us some good news. The 2025 street projects are now assigned or are now under design. Staff is advised to check their assignments because new projects likely be added in the coming weeks. 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. 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 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 still tentatively planned to begin late 2025. 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, Congratulations to Kyle Frank for his promotion to City Construction Engineer.

Land Information/Official Map

Jeff Quamme, Section Manager

- Ongoing work with Engineering Tech and IT to determine workflows for addressing and Storm Water Billing.
- Please note that Jule Smith will be mostly out of the office for the majority of February.
- North South BRT support for the future project and ongoing support for the East West BRT
- Support of multiple engineering projects with research, easements and title.
- As is always typical, continued coordination of multiple Real Estate projects, vacations, research and relocation orders for several engineering, planning, transportation and water projects
- 911 Address Point population is ongoing and is a priority. Additional help is on the way.
- Continued multiple private development with extensive 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.
- Continued updating of base mapping to prioritize areas in need of adjustment spatially of areas that are not

accurately mapped as time permits.

Engineering Technology

Candice Kasprzak, Engineering Technology Manager

- Finalizing Address Point and storm billing workflows to work with new CAMA system
- Continue using "Issues" function of ACC to complete punch lists on projects
- 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.
- Working with Construction Inspection on IRA workflow in ACC using assets. Have test projects going, training scheduled.
- Working with IT Pipes to get manhole inspections in
- ACC training ongoing and targeted to when users have project tasks to complete
- 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
- Demoed Power BI dashboards for ACC to get feedback from section heads and building for parcel information (replace GEO)

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 February are:

- Common Council resolutions deadline was Tuesday, February 4, by 8 AM (CC meeting on 2/11)
- Board of Public Works resolutions deadline was Wednesday, February 5, by NOON (BPW meeting on 2/12)
- Common Council resolutions deadline is Tuesday, February 18, by 8 AM (CC meeting on 2/25)
- Board of Public Works resolutions deadline is Wednesday, February 19, by NOON (BPW meeting on 2/26)

Finance

Steve Danner-Rivers, Financial Manager

The Finance section is still working through the close out of 2024 while doing our best to keep up with 2025. Please keep this in mind if waiting on something from any of us. All staff are asked to please help out by reviewing consulting agreements and PW contracts to make sure everything gets paid up through 12/31/24. Anything that cannot be paid needs to be communicated to Finance staff so that the amounts can be accrued back to 2024. This includes Change Orders that are pending approval. Please remember to make any grant submittals for 2024 and prior now. If submittals cannot be made yet, please communicate the amount of grant eligible expense in 2024 to Chase. Please also remember that anything not paid with a p-card at the time of purchase, including electric/natural gas extensions, need to have a PO issued up front. Services should not be authorized with vendors nor materials ordered without having a PO approved first. Only true emergencies are the exception to this requirement.

Construction Inspection

Kyle Frank, Principal Engineer Section Manager

Construction inspection staff continue to work on 2024 project finalization. Several public works projects have started construction, notably Pheasant Branch Greenway and Commercial Ave Sanitary Sewer Reconstruction. Precon meetings for spring construction are getting scheduled. Asset/IRAs in ACC training for inspectors scheduled for week of Feb. 10.

COMING AND GOING

- New Hires
 - None this month.
- Promotions
 - Hattie Russell (Current: Maintenance Mechanic 2) (she/her) (Former position: Maintenance Mechanic 1)
 - Kyle Frank (Current: Construction Principal Engineer) (he/him) (Former position: Engineer 4)
 - Ryan Schmidt (Current: Engineering Operations Supervisor) (he/him) (Former position: Utility Services Supervisor)
- Departures
 - Nicholas Hammen
 - Brynn Bemis
 - Levi Sanders

GEAR: The Engineering Division Intranet Site

Don't forget to bookmark GEAR today!

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



welcome to gear.

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