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THE E.
A newsletter for the Engineering Division



January 2025 Issue

A message from your City Engineer, Jim Wolfe

Happy New Year Engineering! I hope everyone had safe, enjoyable holidays! We had a very successful 2024, accomplishing so many of our goals for the year, and continuing to provide excellent service to Madison residents. One item to celebrate once again is our accomplishments with our preventative maintenance on our sanitary sewer systems, keeping main back-ups to an astonishing low number with just 10 in 2024, especially for a system our size, continuing to well out-pace national averages. I'm also excited about all that we have planned in Engineering for 2025. As you'll probably see the various section updates, there are a number of major initiatives and plans that should hopefully be wrapping up early this year, including the Stormwater Vegetation Management Plan and reaching a major milestone at the State Street Campus Garage. Last, I want to send a huge thank you for all of the generous donations made by Engineering staff to the Combined Campaign, and our pie contest videos to celebrate are below in the E!

-Jim

Pies in Faces,

Engineering Raises \$10K for Combined Campaign

Thank you all for helping make the 2024 Combined Campaign a success. A special thank you to the supervisors who

volunteered to participate in the pie contest. Pies were thrown on Tuesday 1/7 at Emil and Downtown. The “winners” of the pie contest Greg Fries, Mark Moder, John Toso and Kathy Cryan were great sports! We raised \$180.52 cash for the United Way of Dane County, \$180.52 cash for Thursday’s Child and a further \$9,934 for various charities through employee payroll pledges! The number of Engineering employees who signed up for payroll pledges, and the dollars pledged were both up quite a bit over last year. Great work Engineering!!

VIDEO: Engineering Staff Get a Pie to the Face for Good Cause

<https://youtu.be/Okn6C3aFxFNM>



PHOTOS: State Street Campus Garage Mixed Use Project





[Learn more about the project progress on the Project page.](#)

Equity Minute: Engineering Retreat Coming

It is a new year for the Equity Team! The team will be kicking off the year with a retreat at the end of January to discuss all of the all of the teams accomplishments from 2024 as well as create an Equity Action Plan for 2025.

Be a City Mentor:

2025 Mentorship Program Recruitment Open

The City of Madison Human Resources Team's 2025 [Mentorship Program Recruitment](#) is open.

The success of our Mentorship Program relies on the engagement and commitment of individuals who are passionate about personal and professional growth. HR is asking for nominations, including self-nominations, for **mentors and mentees** who could greatly benefit from participating in this enriching experience.

The goals of the Mentorship Program are:

- Leadership Development: Growth and development of both mentors and mentees.
- Equity and Inclusion: Promote belonging, retention, and advancement of diverse employees.
- Organizational Learning: Increase cross-agency socialization, collaboration, and learning.
- Capacity Building: Build capacity for a citywide mentoring

Completed nomination forms can be emailed to JWinston@cityofmadison.com, no later than Friday, Jan. 24.

New Food Option Ugly Apple Quick Bite Cafe in City-County Ground Floor

The café is open on the ground floor of CCB Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.- 2 p.m. Stocked with coffee, fresh-baked pastries, and expanding grab and go lunch options, it has something for everyone!

Media Snapshot December 2024

Press Releases

- [Dec. 17 Autumn Ridge Path Ribbon Cutting Cancelled](#) posted December 16, 2024
- [RESCHEDULED: City Invites Public to Celebrate its New Autumn Ridge Path](#) posted December 12, 2024
- [City Invites Public to Celebrate its New Autumn Ridge Path](#) posted December 9, 2024
- [Grease Reminder From City Crews, Recent Sewer Overflow Cleaned Up Successfully](#) posted December 6, 2024

Blog

- None

Podcast

- NEW: [Ep 74. Summer Means Construction Season: Paul Lauby](#)
- NEW: [Ep 73. There's More To Traveling Than You Think: Transportation Demand Management](#)

Everyday Engineering Podcast

Make sure to subscribe to Everyday Engineering on iTunes and watch for these upcoming episodes featuring your coworkers and their expertise on topics and projects:

- [LISTEN: The Madison Lakes are Pretty... with guests: Phil Gaebler, Eric Booth](#)
- [LIVE: New Signs Coming to A Neighborhood Near You: 20 is Plenty with guest: Jeremy Nash](#)
- NEW: [Ep 74. Summer Means Construction Season: Paul Lauby](#)
- NEW: [Ep 73. There's More To Traveling Than You Think: Transportation Demand Management](#)
- COMING SOON: Just Don't Do It, Illicit Dumping and Contractor Questions with guest: Phil Gaebler
- COMING SOON: The Grass is Greener on Stormwater Land, Mowing with guests: John Toso, Maddie Dumas

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

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 is the focus right now as I'm trying to wrap up the Ops 1 Recruitment Video and the Sauk Creek Greenway Promo Video. The Autumn Ridge Ribbon Cutting that was postponed, then cancelled will likely be done in the spring to kick off bike riding. I'm also working on drafting up Engineering's first annual report, and I'm working with Jim to put that together. Lots to come in the New Year that keeps us all busy!

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 Acacia Ridge Ph 12. Evergreen/Sommers/Ohio was approved at the Board of Public Works. Public information meetings were held for Meyer Rd and Badger/Rusk.

Facilities Management

Bryan Cooper, Deputy City Engineer, Facilities Services and Management

- 2024 GreenPower team construction activities continue for [CDA Truax Apartments Solar PV](#).
- Construction Phase > [Door Creek Park Pavilion](#), [Tenney Park Beach Shelter](#), [Madison Public Market](#), [Metro – Satellite Facility](#), [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](#)
- Bidding Phase > [CCB – DCR Offices](#)
- Design Phase > [Streets – Waste Transfer – Public Drop Off Access and Flatwork Improvements](#), [Engineering Services Building Locker Room Renovation](#), and [Imagination Center at Reindahl Park](#).

Operations – Sewer and Stormwater Utilities

Chris Scharf, Operations Construction Supervisor

Vactor crews are starting the new year with new AC/PM maintenance work orders. Hoping for good weather to stay ahead of schedule. CCTV crews start the new year with new CMOM work. Started the new year discovering 3 more cross bores in a sanitary main on Junction Rd. Utility has been notified and hope fully the situation is resolved quickly. Construction crews are plugging away with sanitary repairs, pin type casting replacements and finishing up some leftover Waterways projects Greenway crews have a new piece of equipment to assist in removing volunteer tress that traditional mowing equipment could not. With the lack of snow so far crews have not had to do much snow removal, sure that this will change and we will shift gears accordingly.

Stormwater

Janet Schmidt, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

Happy 2025! Well the first full week back to work was off to a blazing start with lots of projects and work to do! We are

gearing up for approval of the long awaited Stormwater Vegetative Management Plan in mid-January. The Sauk Creek Corridor Plan is moving forward after a very cold field meeting with the residents in December. Thanks to Jojo, Maddie, Ryan Schmidt and Wayne Brown for braving the temps to go on the walk and talk with the neighborhood. An upcoming PIM for Sauk Creek will be held soon and then we will finalize the plan and take it to the Board and Council for approval. This Corridor Plan will be the guiding document for how to manage the greenway for years to come. The Pheasant Branch Greenway Enhancement project is kicking off with some tree clearing work starting in mid-January as well as the kick off of the Prairie Hills pond dredging on McKee Rd. Our Ecological Restoration contract is getting awarded soon so we can be ready for those spring prescribed burns. We are going to be working on kick starting the Starkweather Watershed Study soon. It is by far the largest study area and we will be breaking it into smaller sections and putting it out for consultant bids. There are still 8 more studies that are still in the works in various stages that we hope to wrap up in 2025 and early 2026. Capital City Bikepath storm sewer relocation between Blount St and Brearly St is in full design with a public meeting coming up in February. The designers are keeping very busy with street recons and resurfacing projects as well as private development projects. Last but certainly not least, we are sad to report that Brynn Bemis will be leaving the City soon. We will certainly miss her but also wish her luck on her new adventures, which hopefully include living abroad in Spain! If you have a chance, please wish Brynn farewell and good vibes for her next chapter.

Sanitary Sewer

Mark Moder, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

Welcome to 2025! If it is anything like 2024, it will be another busy year. The 2025 street projects are now assigned or are now under design. 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. 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.

Land Information/Official Map

Jeff Quamme, Section Manager

- Ongoing work with Engineering Tech and IT to determine workflows for addressing and Storm Water Billing.
- Easement and title requests for multiple engineering and BRT projects.
- Coordination of multiple Real Estate projects, vacations, research and relocation orders for several engineering, planning, transportation and water projects
- 911 Address Point population is still prioritized to complete situs addresses during this calendar year.
- Continued 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.
- 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
- Starting to work with Construction Inspection on IRA workflow in ACC
- Working with ITPipes 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

- Current Engineering letterhead is available on GEAR: [Documents/Templates](#)
- [2025 Board of Public Works and Common Council Calendar](#) is also on GEAR.
- Common Council resolution deadline is Tuesday, Jan. 7 & 21 by 8 AM (CC meeting on 1/14 & 1/28)
- Board of Public Works resolution deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 8 & 22 by NOON (BPW meeting on 1/15 & 1/29)

Finance

Steve Danner-Rivers, Financial Manager

A few reminders regarding 2024 related activity:

- Please continue to close out Work Orders in Cityworks as quickly as possible after the work is complete. This is especially important for work orders that have to be billed out to another agency or external party.
- Any billings to utilities like MGE or anything done without a formal agreement needs to be billed out now. Please forward the necessary info as soon as you have it pulled together.
- All grants need to be billed out or accrued (if unable to be billed out now) in order to have the revenue and expenditures both within 2024. Please work with Chase to get all grants up to date.
- Please review all consultant agreements and anything else under a POS contract to make sure any contract extensions are in place prior to the contract expiring (if the project is delayed or if the work will not be complete prior to the contract expiration date)
- Please review all open contracts and PO's that you are managing to make sure that we are either billed for all work through 12/31 or to identify items to be closed out.
- **Please do not pay for goods or services from 2024 with a p-card. Any invoices for 2024 that need to be paid now in 2025 will have to be paid by check instead.**

A few items for 2025:

- 2025 Capital and Operating Budgets are now in Munis so we can issue 2025 PO's
- 3% COLA increase will included on 1/17/25 checks for General/Professional employees in CG's 15-20, 23, 28, 31-33, 43-44, 71 & 83
- There are some major updates to the Purchasing policy in 2025. Purchasing is working on updating the relevant reference documents. Note that the 3rd item doesn't take effect right away, but will be soon.
- The informal solicitation threshold requiring competitive selection (i.e. getting 3 quotes) has moved from \$10,000 to \$25,000 (previously indicated as \$20,000, but changed to \$25,000 to align with other thresholds in IT). This means if your purchase is below \$25k you are not required to get 3 quotes. However, getting multiple quotes is still best practice when practicable.
- The POS contract threshold has also increased from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Going forward, purchases of services under \$25k do not require a purchase of service contract.
- The formal solicitation threshold will be changing from \$50,000 to \$75,000, but this requires modifications to the ordinance. That process is in the works. The ordinance change is anticipated to be approved at the 2/11/25 Common Council meeting.
- In the 2025 Operating Budget, Private Development is now its own service in the Engineering Budget. Accounting changes related to this will be made "behind the scenes" so no staff impacts should be expected. This should help make the true cost of this important service more transparent to policy makers.

Construction Inspection

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

Construction inspection staff are working on finalizing 2024 projects. The Village of Autumn lake Ph 15 project held a final walk thru to begin the acceptance process. The Pheasant Branch Greenway, Prairie Hills Detention Basin & Acacia Ridge Ph 12 projects held Precon meetings to get them ready for construction.

Coming and Going

- New Hires
- Angel Gonzalez
- Neudy Villalobos
- Promotions
- Eric Cefalu
- Maria Delestre
- Reid Stiteley
- Grecia Izquierdo-Torres

- Departures
 - John Fahrney
 - Jessica Kutz
 - Lucas Vogt
 - Karol Niemann
 - Humberto Macias Hernandez
 - Bruce Warnke
 - Vaughn Porter

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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