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# THE E.

A newsletter for the Engineering Division



May 2024 Issue

## A message from City Engineer, Jim Wolfe

It's officially Spring, and with that comes a lot of work across the Division. There are a lot of construction projects either already underway or about to start and our Operations crews are busy with the Spring cleaning of our storm sewer treatment structures, among the typical scheduled work (more in Section head reviews below). Additionally, our Ops crews have been very generous with their time and flexibility to help roll out our new Ride Along program. There's more on that in this issue of the "E," and I really encourage staff in our Division to advantage of this program to learn and experience some of the work our field crews are doing on a daily basis.

Also with Spring comes our annual submission of the Capital Budget. A huge thank you to everyone that helped put together Engineering's request, especially Chase O'Brien who coordinates and organizes all of our different submissions. Our Capital budget request next go through a review process before the Mayor announces her Executive Budget, and if you'd like to see what's in our request, or stay up-to-date on the progress, information can be found [Finance Department's Budget Page](#).

-Jim

## First MI-TE Pour of the 2024 Season!



## Engineering Ride Along Update, Sign up For the Next One!

Since our Ridealong Program on Engineering Vectors was launched in the fall, we've had six co-workers do a ride along (one more scheduled for later this week)! Here are a few experiences from

staff who have taken the ride:

"The operators I rode with were friendly and eager to answer my questions. I learned the importance of having a channelized bottom (sloping sides) in a box culvert. The time savings for maintenance is huge!" -- **Mario Galindez**

"Absolutely loved the experience. Great to learn what our coworkers do in the field and where my work is being applied!" -- **Qiao (Will) Tian**

"It was great to connect with the workers at Emil St! I rode with Ben Gulvik, an operator who does mostly sanitary sewer cleaning. I learned that it was his idea to provide more information to homeowners when they have a sanitary sewer backup, how to prevent them, and how they could apply to our Backwater Valve Rebate program. A few months back I created informational postcards for him and other vector crews to hand out. I got to hear first-hand how it was nice for them to be able to provide something positive to families despite them having just undergone an undesirable situation." -- **Megan Eberhardt**

"I HAD A GREAT TIME! I had a chance to operate the vector, drop the water nozzle down the sewer and drive it up the pipe, then push the buttons! Travis and Ben were great to work with and talked about me about a typical day on the vector with them. I also had a chance to meet up with the sewer televising crew and watch them operate a real-life remote-control vehicle through a large storm sewer pipe not mapped in your sewer database. I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL MY NEXT RIDE ALONG!" -- **Andy Zwieg**

"I learned so much during my ride along. It was great just being able to see how our equipment operates and what it takes to access and serve the infrastructure we maintain and being able to see first-hand some of the capabilities of our equipment and some different scenarios that we need to respond to. It was also great getting to chat with some Engineering colleagues that I don't get to see that often! I look forward to doing another ride along soon!" -- **Jim Wolfe**



**ENGINEERING RIDE ALONG**

Get out of the office and ride in a Vector or CCTV van. Learn how our Ops team keeps the City's sewer systems in top notch condition.

Contact Ben at [bcarrao@cityofmadison.com](mailto:bcarrao@cityofmadison.com) or (608) 266-4430 to schedule.

The graphic features a yellow background with a black and white hazard stripe border. At the top, it says "ENGINEERING RIDE ALONG" in bold black letters. Below this is a photograph of two men in safety vests standing next to a green Vector van. A megaphone icon is positioned to the left of the photo. Below the photo, the text reads: "Get out of the office and ride in a Vector or CCTV van. Learn how our Ops team keeps the City's sewer systems in top notch condition." At the bottom, it provides contact information: "Contact Ben at bcarrao@cityofmadison.com or (608) 266-4430 to schedule."

## W. Wilson Street & S. Broom Street Wins APWA Transportation Project of the Year 2024



Left to right: Dustin Bittner (Speedway Sand & Gravel), Nathan Wachtendonk (President, APWA-WI), Jim Wolfe (City Engineer, City of Madison), Jake Peterson (Speedway Sand & Gravel)

## City Engineering Staff Leads APWA Bike Ride Tour





Engineering Division City Engineer Jim Wolfe, Stormwater Engineer Phil Gaebler and the City's Bike and Pedestrian Administrator Renee Callaway spoke during the 12-mile bike ride.

The City of Madison Engineering Division, in partnership with Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District and the Wisconsin APWA Chapter, hosted the American Public Works Association (APWA) Conference at



Monona Terrace this year May 1-3, 2024.

As part of the week, Engineering Division Deputy Chris Petykowski and staff from Engineering and Traffic Engineering led a bike tour in the City to share more about different projects. Stops on the tour included:

- Award-winning Wilson and Broom Reconstruction
- Award-winning Garver Path
- Green Infrastructure Stop at Dixon Greenway to highlight native plant restoration
- Atwood Avenue Reconstruction

## City Celebrates 2 Megawatt Milestone!







Thank you to everyone who made this event possible! The City of Madison is proud to announce that it has reached the significant milestone of 2 megawatts of installed and commissioned solar on its buildings and facilities. This accomplishment creates momentum toward adding more solar installations across the community.

The City held a press event to celebrate the 2 megawatt milestone on Earth Day, April 22, 2024, at its City of Madison Engineering Division Larry D. Nelson Operations Facility on 1600 Emil Street, Madison, Wis.

[Watch the full recording of the celebration.](#)

[View full solar location PDF map](#)

[Read the full press release](#)

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## March Madness 2024 Roundup Winner

Written by: Jon Evans

There's a dynasty brewing in northeast Connecticut. A year after steamrolling six opponents to claim its fifth national title, UCONN was even better this season and punctuated another dominant run through the tournament with a 75-60 victory over Purdue on Monday April 8. UCONN is the sixth team to win all six tournament games by double-digit margins, an average of 23.3 per game.

Early Madness front runner, Gregg May (Mayor's Office), who picked Creighton to win it all, faded down the stretch when they lost in the Sweet 16 to Tennessee.

We respect Mario's Madison loyalty as the only person to pick the Badgers to go all the way, but it just wasn't their year.

Also impressive, Todd Chojnowski's 45 correct picks – but picking Kentucky to win it all and their early exit was his downfall.

10 of us picked UCONN and only 2 of us picked Purdue. It came down to the championship game – Matt Allie (Huskies) vs. Meghan Eberhardt (Purdue). Former City Engineering Employee Matt Allie took home the title this year and told us to keep the trophy warm at the Engineering Office. The league was renamed this year (Allie-Oops) so it's only fitting!

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## Media Roundup



Robin Greenway Video Shoot Day with Alder Tishler, Sarah Lerner and Emily Jorgenson



Channel 3 Interviews MI-TE Trainee Kemoney Woods.



Channel 3 interview MI-TE Trainee Krystle Smith.

#### Press Releases

[Engineering Crews Clean Sewer Overflow on City's North Side](#)  
[Limit mowing to twice in the next month as part of Low Mow May 2024](#)  
[City of Madison Reaches Major Solar Milestone](#)

#### WISC-TV Highlights MI-TE

[News 3 Now at Five: April 30, 2024](#) (15:51 mark in video)

#### HR Newsletter

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/human-resources/about/newsletters>

## 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*

We are getting ready to prep for our new AASPIRE PIO Intern for the summer. We have hired Maggie Spinney! I look forward to getting her immersed in all things Engineering when she starts June 10. If you would be willing to do an explainer interview/zoom with her when she starts getting to know Engineering, please let me know. I'll reach out, too, but if you'd passionate about your career, and would be willing to share, please reach out to me! We celebrated 2 Megawatts of solar at Emil Street on Earth Day. We are also starting to plan for Waterways Newsletter, which Maggie will be working on. I also have a video project coming up highlighting Robin Greenway. Thank you to Sarah Lerner for reaching out and getting my calendar. It's really easy to pop out to a project and do a couple interviews. If you have a project worth sharing about, visual, please reach out, we'd love to highlight your work!

#### Public Works and Private Development

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

Public works engineers are continuing to work on 2024 projects. Private development Engineers and Managers continue to service contracts and issue plan sets. Plans issued this month 838 Williamson, Eagle Trace Ph 7, 925 Applegate Rd, VAL Ph 14, Blue Harvest Lane, Hermina & Union & South Point Sidewalk. Bartillon Path was presented to the Transportation Commission.

#### Facilities Management

*Bryan Cooper, Deputy City Engineer, Facilities Services and Management*

- [Held a 2 megawatt of installed/commission solar power celebration on City Facilities with the Mayor and GreenPower team at 1600 Emil Street.](#)
- 2024 GreenPower team continuing solar PV installation work at [Police Training Center, East District Police, and Water Utility Paterson Operations.](#) [Design and procurement activities for CDA Truax Apartments Solar PV project underway.](#)
- Construction Phase > [CCB remodels \(Assessor/Clerk/Treasurer/OIM/Common Council\), 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, Fire Station 14 Training Site Phase 1](#)
- Bidding/Contract Phase > [Rennebohm Park Shelter Restroom Renovation, Country Grove Park Shelter, West Streets Facility HVAC and Lighting Upgrade, and Bartillon Shelter](#)
- Design Phase > [Streets – Waste Transfer – Public Drop Off Access and Flatwork Improvements, WPCRC Expansion, Engineering Services Building Locker Room Renovation, and Imagination Center at Reindahl Park.](#)

#### Operations – Sewer and Stormwater Utilities

*Ryan Schmidt, Utilities Services Supervisor*

Sewer cleaning is on schedule. Our Engineering Ride Along Program is off to a great start! On top of staying up with their cleaning schedule, Vactor crews have been busy showing other staff from Engineering what a day of maintenance cleaning for our sewer systems entails. Crews have completed five ride alongs to date, with two more scheduled this week! Feedback of the Ride Along Program has been positive, both from the crew, and the attendees.

Engineering CCTV crews are up and running full speed. The CCTV crews are busy with CMOM inspections, short liners, lateral abandonments, and special requests.

Spring storm structure cleaning is in full swing, and crews are working on catch basin cleaning. The Willow Creek "bathtub" cleaning has been set back to May; recent rain events have delayed the cleaning schedule. Once we have a forecast with a few dry days, crews will start "scrubbing" the bathtub. If all goes well (a little mishap with our camera tech last year) we hope to have a time lapse video of the Willow Creek cleaning collaboration to share with everyone.

Engineering Utility Locators have been extra busy, they have completed Forestry's spring tree plantings locates, which couldn't be timed better! Locators are now busy marking Engineering utilities for the large wave of Digger Hotline Tickets submitted from residents of Madison, and private contractor's, all of whom are excited to start their projects for the season. Paul DeJardin has recently joined our locating team, congrats Paul!

Construction crews have been busy working on casting adjustments and replacements, point repairs, structure repairs and installation, and sinkhole repairs. Asphalt plants should be "cooking" hot mix asphalt soon, crews are preparing repairs to have permanent patches installed.

MI-TE crew trainees have started applying what they are learning in training to the field. The MI-TE team has already started replacing sidewalk stones, detectable warning fields, and curb and gutter for the 2024 season. Congrats to Jared Mason on his promotion to Operator 2. Jared will be spending time working with the MI-TE crew as well as other OP2 assignments.

#### Stormwater

*Janet Schmidt, Principal Engineer, Section Manager*

April showers bring May flowers! Our greenways and wild areas are starting to bloom now and our vegetation and ecology teams have been busy working in the field already. The restoration will be starting at Robin Greenway this spring and if you go out you will see all kinds of spring woodland flowers and new trees and shrubs recently planted. Maddie also just did a press release for No Mow May to help support the pollinators! Our Spring Harbor Watershed Study is gearing up for a 4<sup>th</sup> public meeting. Our modelers did an amazing job looking into the public comments and coming up with a new plan to address concerns. This was a significant amount of work to get to the point where we can identify solutions for major flooding issues in that watershed. The Capital Budget requests are now submitted for review. There are a lot of projects coming up in the next 5 years, including the expansion of West Town Ponds and the regional pond that is planned for



the Marty Road/Raymond Road area. The Pheasant Branch Greenway Enhancement project in Old Sauk Trails Business Park is getting closer to final design. Hopefully that will be bid this fall with work commencing in the winter. Street reconstruction and resurfacing projects continue to move forward, as well as private development projects. We are still in our busy season for design but soon most projects will be out for construction.

#### Sanitary Sewer

*Mark Moder, Principal Engineer, Section Manager*

The 2024 construction year is here and design staff continue to be very busy. April finished the month out with two (2) Lift Station force main breaks (Truax lift station force main and Veith Lift Station) so improving out force mains is something that we will want to look into going forward. We have been replacing force mains with our lift station projects but we may need to make additional improvements to avoid the need for costly emergency repair work. Private development work (both subdivision and infill lot redevelopment) is ongoing. Infill lot redevelopments that resulted in larger regional infrastructure sewer projects are now being designed and bid: Lake Street Garage Redevelopment (Lake St. and Dayton St. sewers); and Gardners Bakery Redevelopment (Commercial Ave.(Hwy 30) sewer crossing). Lake Street is now contracted. The 3<sup>rd</sup> project, 1617 Sherman Ave. (Fordem-First Sewer Replacement), will not be built in 2024 due to Railroad Permitting. We are anticipating more developments that will require offsite sewer improvements because of the significant increase in wastewater generated. 838 Williamson Street (Paterson St Sewer) is one project that we still are awaiting a decision from a developer for the required sewer improvements on Paterson St. Lift Stations Projects: Truax Lift Station Replacement is under construction and scheduled for completion in 2024. The Badger Lift Station Replacement will be designed in 2024, construction in 2025. Sewer Projects funded by Impact Fees- The Pumpkin Hollow Neighborhood Sanitary Sewer (regional sewer improvement) will serve pending development in the vicinity of Portage Rd and Hoepker Road and potentially a much larger 674-acre basin which currently does not have access to City sewer. We are in the process of creating impact fee needs assessment.

#### Land Information/Official Map

*Jeff Quamme, Section Manager*

- Assisting Planning with redistricting and revisions to wards across the City
- 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
- Private development with extensive land rights reviews, acquisitions and releases with Real Estate projects.
- Review of all historic Official Map reservations still ongoing.
- Continued update and checks of impervious mapping for storm water billing. Most has been completed.
- Checking and adding parcel mapping for future areas of Blooming Grove to attach in 2027
- Updating of base mapping to adjust spatially areas that are not accurately mapped.

#### Engineering Technology

*Candice Kasprzak, Engineering Technology Manager*

- Facilities Management working in ACC for all workflows
- All Change Orders and Pay Apps for Engineering are being completed in ACC
- Adding all public projects to ACC with plans and revisions accessible in the field via iPads
- ACC training ongoing and targeted to when users have project tasks to complete
- Looking into getting CityWorks time imported into Kronos
- Researching BIM for facilities into CityWorks
- Developing Stormwater work orders for summer work on ponds and greenways
- Carey going to the CityWorks Conference in May to look at enhancements and what we can do with the upgrade coming soon
- Ongoing
- Setting up CAD standards, templates and efficiency improvements
- E911 Addressing Points with Dane County
- Misc CityWorks updates and maintenance
- Sanitary & Storm record updates – working on sanitary and storm backlog
- Data Governance –Working on data training. Looking into online class forums for different topics

#### Administration Staff

*Johanna Johnson, Heidi Fleegel, Isaac Gabriel*

Important Common Council and Board of Public Works dates to know in May:

- Common Council resolutions deadline is Tuesday, May 14 at 8:00 AM (5/21 CC)
- Board of Public Works resolution deadline is Wednesday, May 15 at NOON (5/22 BPW)
- Common Council resolution deadline is Tuesday, May 28 at 8:00 AM (6/4 CC)
- Board of Public Works resolution deadline is Wednesday, May 29 at NOON (6/5 BPW)

#### Finance

*Steve Danner-Rivers, Financial Manager*

The Finance section is happy to report that we made it through the external audit with no audit findings. Way to go Finance Team!

We're holding a Contracts training for Engineering staff on 5/21 @ 1:00 PM via Zoom. If you did not receive an invitation and you are involved in writing or managing POS contracts, please contact Chase for a meeting invite.

Kronos tip: Remember you can resize all your columns in Kronos. Making them bigger or smaller to fit the data in that field can be really helpful. Also remember to check the variance column on the far right before submitting your timesheet for the pay period. There should be blanks in this column. If you see a number in this column, you have over or under allocated for the day.

#### Construction Inspection

*John Fahrney, Principal Engineer, Section Manager*

Permits, private development projects, PW and WISDOT projects are well under way for 2024.

Surveyors are working on preliminary surveys for 2023.

Interviews for construction inspector are concluding.

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## Coming and Going

### New Hires

- Flora Duran
- Krystle Smith
- Karol Niemann
- Jessica Kutz
- Keenih Allen-Wallace

### Promotions

- Jared Mason
- Brooke Peterson
- Bill Wenninger
- Alex Koeser

### Departures

- Steven Armstrong
  - Bob O'Neill
  - Brenda Boylan
  - Lindsey Krey
  - Mark Canter
-

**GEAR:**

Don't forget to bookmark GEAR today!

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



welcome to gear.

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