

From: [Mohelnitzky, Hannah](#)
To: [EN GROUP](#)
Subject: The E: September 2024
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THE E.

A newsletter for the Engineering Division



September 2024 Issue

A message from your City Engineer, Jim Wolfe:

As we come off our first week since Labor Day, I'd like to thank you all for hard work and dedication. It really is an honor to work with so many incredible people.

On a related note, we have started our planning efforts for this year's Division-wide All Hands meeting. We're currently planning to have the meeting on October 15 at Emil St. I really appreciate the opportunity for us all to get together and share some good stories and important information on the Division. More information on the meeting, including a calendar invitation will be coming out shortly!

Equity Minute

September is the start of Hispanic Heritage Month. A time to celebrate Hispanic and Latinx culture and history.

Here are 3 facts about Hispanic Heritage Month:

1. This celebration of history and culture started off as a week long event that happened annually in 1968. It was then extended to a month in 1988 and has been a month long ever since.
2. Hispanic Heritage Month starts on September 15th and ends on October 15th. This time frame was selected because there are a significant number of Latin American countries celebrate their independence day during this time frame.
3. Madison Public Library will be hosting events all Hispanic Heritage Month such as art exhibits, mini concerts, family movie nights, and bilingual story times.

#ICYMI: Referendum to be on November Ballot,

City Budget Deficit Conversation Continues

The following update was sent to City Employees in August from the Mayor:

Good Afternoon –

Last week, the Madison Common Council officially voted 17-2 to place a \$22 million property tax referendum on the ballot in November.

The City is facing a deficit because of the continuing punitive restrictions placed by the state legislature on the revenue that Wisconsin cities can use to fund their budgets. Despite our strong local economy, these restrictions have made it impossible for the City to keep up with inflation and a growing population. In order to continue providing the same level of service in the future, we are forced to seek voters' approval to increase our budget through a referendum.

The Council's vote this week shows robust support for your work and the services we provide to the community.

On November 5, the community will vote on the referendum. The Common Council will deliberate and adopt a final 2025 budget the following week. Unfortunately, if the referendum does not pass, we will have to make significant budget cuts – as well as raising city fees and spending some of the City's reserves – in order to adopt a balanced budget, as we are required to by state law. We are currently estimating the amount of those cuts to be around \$6 million. I know many of you have been doing more with less for years, and we cannot ask you to stretch any thinner to continue providing the same level of service. Instead, this year, budget reductions will have to come with difficult choices about how we are changing our level of service. There will just be some things that we cannot do anymore.

I hope we don't have to make these cuts. I hope a referendum passes because our community deserves the high-quality services you provide. And I am optimistic that our residents will decide it is worth paying around \$19/month on the average home to keep those services. I will be doing my best to explain the choice to residents in a clear and concise way.

I also know this uncertainty is stressful, and that even the idea of service cuts can cause stress and trigger past trauma. One thing we can do is to make sure we're taking care of ourselves. Organizational Development has highlighted a course on [Trauma Informed Living](#) that may be helpful, especially if the current environment is activating previous times of stress in your life.

Another thing we can do is share stories of the great work that City employees do every day. Please do not hesitate to share these stories with your supervisor or our Communications Manager, Dylan Brogan. Also feel free to talk about the valuable work you do with your neighbors and families on your own time.

If you do talk with people about the referendum, please remember that we have to ensure that as City employees we are not using City time or resources to campaign for or against the referendum. On City time and as a City representative, we can share information about our services and what budget cuts could mean for our services. But we cannot tell people how to vote. To be clear, this applies only to your time on the clock. Employees are free to campaign on their own time using their own resources either for or against the referendum. For more information here is some guidance from the [City Attorney's Office](#).

Please know your service and commitment to the City are so appreciated, and your work is incredibly valuable to the community.

Be well,
Mayor Satya

Wisconsin Stormwater Week 2024, Sept. 21-29, 2024

Join us for a week dedicated to learning about stormwater, what it is, the problems it can cause, and actions people can take to prevent stormwater pollution to our waters. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn from the experts and make a difference – mark your calendars and get involved during Wisconsin Stormwater Week!

Local Event Schedule

- **Sept. 23rd, 9:30-11am**- [Lil' Explorers Stormwater Adventure Program for preschoolers \(ages 3-5\)](#) @ Lussier Family Heritage Center- (Free, 10 spots available-registration required)
- **Sept. 24th, 5-7pm**- [Plant Kit Sale and Native Gardening Workshop](#)- Learn how native gardening can protect our lands and waters at learning stations and pick up a pre-ordered downspout or pollinator garden kit to plant. **(Tickets required, Cost: \$23- 16-plant pollinator kit, \$46- 32-plant downspout garden kit, and \$30- garden design session and 16-plant kit). Tickets include entry to event. Tickets or garden kits will not be available to purchase the day of the event.**

Sept. 26th, 8am-12pm- Smart Salting Workshop and Equipment Open House (parking lots and sidewalks) @ Madison Metro. Sewerage District- (Free, registration required)

- **Sept. 29th, 5pm- [Tales from Planet Earth-Waubesa Wetlands Film Screening](#) @** Lussier Family Heritage Center (Free, registration required)

Free Webinars

- **12 p.m., Sept. 24, 2024: A Salty Situation Webinar**
 - Allison Madison, Program Manager for Wisconsin Salt Wise, will discuss the environmental issues associated with road salt that are negatively impacting freshwater resources in Wisconsin and throughout the United States. Laura Herrick, Chief Environmental Engineer for the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), will showcase the Regional Chloride Impact Study.
 - Register: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/7zqwzcr/lp/b03bd9ff-feaa-49f4-886d-6c0e0b88a450>
- **5:30 p.m., Sept. 25, 2024: Pond Problems, Solutions and Reporting Webinar**
 - During this webinar, you will learn WIN-WIN options from WIN's newly published *Stormwater Pond Playbook* that reduce stormwater pond maintenance costs and improve water quality. Then, hear from the DNR about stormwater pond inspections, maintenance, and MS4 reporting requirements (including long-term inspection and maintenance requirements for privately owned BMPs) before getting all your questions answered during Q and A!
 - Register: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/xv4a6ns/lp/8cd49bd8-c0c2-4dae-a6e2-94fa357af83e>
- **12 p.m., Sept. 26, 2024: Is Stormwater Treated? Webinar**
 - Milwaukee and Superior are the two cities in Wisconsin with combined sewers and treatment. Megan Högfeltdt, Water Resources Specialist for the City of Superior Environmental Services Division and Cari Roper, with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, will discuss the differences between combined and separate sewers and treatment.
 - Register: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/52w7763/lp/57e438df-fe3d-451a-8fff-05391b8de5e7>

Want a new bus pass for BRT? Email ENAdmin

Metro is in the process of sending new bus passes to agencies for distribution. When they arrive, passes will be placed your mailbox and an email sent. If you currently do not have a pass and wish to receive one, please email EnAdmin@cityofmadison.com.

PHOTOS: Conservation Outreach Visit with Sustain Dane





This is a program through Sustain Dane's Powerful Teen Leaders Program this summer. They expose our youth to many different S.T.E.M career paths.

The groups were with GreenPower at Nakoosa Trail, Fleet Services on the City's east side. Matt, Brooke, and Nelson were there to represent GreenPower and Engineering.







For this visit, they were with Maddie's crew learning about conservation ecology and what Maddie does. They also got to hear from stormwater Engineer JoJo O'Brien.

BRT To Launch, Transportation Releases PR Videos, Information

The City has put together a helpful [video](#) on social platforms, blogs and community groups as we all prepare for the use of these new "Bus Only" lanes for Bus Rapid Transit.

Traffic Engineering also has [Facebook](#) and [X](#) posts for easy sharing.

Links:

[News Release](#)

[Video](#)

[Madison BRT webpage](#)

Not your average 'Jose'

**Engineering's Jose Wanta was featured in a news article recently. Read below!*

<https://link.upnorthnews.com/view/654bd91e8058c24f4a4f3639lis6f.6ik/54bf19a7>

Scientists have been [sounding the alarm](#) over human-induced climate change for decades, and while some politicians, government agencies, and companies have been ignoring, downplaying, or lying about the impacts, sometimes it just takes one average Joe, or in this case, "Jose," to step up and help.

Jose Wanta, a Madison native, is an electrical apprentice in his hometown. The 22-year-old went through the city engineering division's [GreenPower program](#), which trains people for employment opportunities in solar energy and electrical industries.

The program's goal is to ultimately increase the city's generation of renewable energy, while decreasing its carbon pollution—a key driver of climate change and extreme weather. Trainees work alongside electricians to install solar photovoltaic systems on city facilities; these are panels [installed for the conversion of thermal energy into electricity](#).

Long Story Short: Since these systems do not produce air pollution or greenhouse gas when operating, installing them helps [fight the effects of climate change](#).

Jose Wanta has been working with GreenPower for the past five years now, ever since he graduated high school.

“We get paid to do what we love,” he said. “It can be dangerous to work with electricity. I think being younger, the danger kind of excited me. I just fell in love with it, I really did.”

Wanta thinks that learning how to use clean energy is the primary issue of our time, and that if we as a society don't start paying real attention to the harm we've done to the environment, “we're going to regret it.”

“Going green is completely the right path” for the United States, he added.

In addition to the work he's done with photovoltaic systems, Wanta has also learned about electric vehicles, and even electric fire trucks.

Wanta encourages others to look into the GreenPower program if they're interested in working towards a greener future. [You can read about the program and learn how to get involved here.](#)

Media Snapshot August 2024

Press Releases:

- [Street Closure for Ironman Triathlon](#) posted September 4, 2024
- [Olin/Turville Ct and E Lakeside St Resurfacing Project](#) posted August 30, 2024
- [Street Closure – Hancock and Wilson Street Intersection](#) posted August 29, 2024
- [Northbound Lane Closure – N Lake Street](#) posted August 16, 2024
- [Resurfacing – Maple Grove Road, Putnam Road and Stratford Drive](#) posted August 13, 2024

Blogs:

- [Plant of the Week: Turtlehead](#) posted August 21, 2024
- [Plant of the Week: Wild Senna](#) posted August 13, 2024
- [Plant of the Week: Meadow Blazing Star](#) posted August 6, 2024

Everyday Engineering Podcast: 20 is Plenty

The Everyday Engineering Podcast is up and running on a more regular basis again with six new episodes coming. 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:

- **LIVE: New Signs Coming to A Neighborhood Near You: 20 is Plenty**
Guest: Jeremy Nash
 - <https://media.cityofmadison.com/Mediasite/Play/78245cfc8e9c46788bd282ef8d6815551d>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M46i-6UqbHg>
- **COMING SOON: Transportation Demand Management**
Guests: Liz Callin and Trent Shultz
- **COMING SOON: The Madison Lakes are Beautiful But... How Do They Get So Yucky?**
Guests: Phil Gaebler, Eric Booth
- **COMING SOON: Just Don't Do It, Illicit Dumping and Contractor Questions**
Guest: Phil Gaebler
- **COMING SOON: Life's Blueprint: Paul Lauby and the Career of a Construction Inspector**
Guest: Paul Lauby
- **COMING SOON: The Grass is Greener on Stormwater Land, Mowing**
Guests: John Toso, Maddie Dumas

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

Drive the City's EV! Get Charged Up!

Fleet and Engineering invite all City employees to an exciting hands-on opportunity to explore the electric vehicles in our city's general fleet! **Join us on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at Goodman Park between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM to test drive a range of vehicles and equipment, and to learn more about electric vehicle charging.**

[Please RSVP to let us know you plan to come!](#)

- **Test drive a variety of electric vehicles, including:**
 - Ford F150 Lightning
 - Chevrolet Silverado EV
 - Mustang Mach-E
 - Tesla Model 3
 - Ford E-Transit 350

- *And more!*
- **Experience off-road electric equipment in action:**
- Polaris Ranger EV
- Stihl EV Mower
- **See one of the new EV refuse trucks in action!**
- **Learn about the City's EV charging infrastructure**
- **Get all your EV questions answered**

Fleet and Engineering staff will be available to discuss any questions you may have about electric vehicles and the city's green initiatives.

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 editing is underway for a number of projects: Street Meets, Robin Greenway Success Story and more. Review is underway for a number of chunks of content: Waterways 2024, Blogs from our ENG Intern and more. The Flooding Communications Plan is being reviewed by the deputies.

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 include Village of Autumn Lake Ph 15, 252 Dunning, Acacia Ridge Ph 11.

Facilities Management

Bryan Cooper, Deputy City Engineer, Facilities Services and Management

2024 GreenPower team continuing solar PV installation work at [Water Utility Paterson Operations](#). Construction activities underway for [CDA Truax Apartments Solar PV](#).

Construction Phase > [CCB remodels \(Assessor/Clerk/Treasurer/OIM/Common Council\)](#), [Olbrich Gardens Royal Thai Pavilion Renovations](#), [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](#), [Rennebohm Park Shelter Restroom Renovation](#), [Country Grove Park Shelter](#), [West Streets Facility HVAC and Lighting Upgrade](#), [Bartillon Shelter](#), [WPCRC Expansion](#)

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

Wayne Brown, Sewer Maintenance Foreperson

As the saying goes, “no news is good news,” and this month has been a quiet one, just the way we like it. The Vector crews have been diligently working on preventive maintenance (PMs) and (ACs) sewer cleaning. It is also the season for lift station and siphon cleaning. Meanwhile, the CCTV crews remain busy televising storm and sanitary lines for new construction and the CMOM program. Greenway crews are steadily clearing downed trees and catching up on mowing. Construction crews continue to handle sanitary repairs, casting adjustments, asphalt work and sinkholes. The MITE team is actively learning and applying their knowledge to new projects. Thank you to all of the Ops crews for your continued dedication, determination and desire to keep city infrastructure running smoothly.

Stormwater

Janet Schmidt, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

Thankfully we've had a dry spell to help get the lake levels back down. They are still trending over the summer max but the lake levels are lower than they were earlier in the summer, which will help ease some tensions around flash flooding on the Isthmus. Our section is still working on some design projects for bidding yet this fall/winter, including the Pheasant Branch Enhancement project and the Prairie Hills Ponds Dredging, which is getting expanded and rebid. Both of these projects will include frog and turtle relocations to save our herptile friends. Private development projects are still going strong with plans coming out frequently. Our 4th and final Public Informational Meeting for the Spring Harbor Watershed Study will be happening at the end of August. Much thoughtful planning and modeling has been put into the revised study to help offset concerns by the public. The Nine Springs Watershed Study will have its first public meeting in mid-September. We are working on several flood mitigation projects that will occur next year including the

Nakoma/Manitou box repairs on the near west side and the Capital City Trail storm sewer repairs on the near east side, both to be constructed in 2025. Another large project that is still in schematic design is the Mineral Point Road flood mitigation project, which is planned to include a 120" diameter tunneled storm sewer pipe, which is scheduled for construction in 2026.

Sanitary Sewer

Mark Moder, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

The 2024 City street projects that include sewer replacement have now been designed and are now under construction. The 2025 street projects are now under design. Stand-alone sewer projects for 2024 have now been bid and we are awaiting bids. One of the stand-alone sewer projects currently out for bid is the cured in place lining of 2 inverted siphon sewers. A siphon sewer is a sewer that has bends to avoid a large obstruction that cannot or would be very difficult to move. The obstructions for the 2 siphon sewers that we are lining are large storm sewers. There is a 72 X 113-inch horizontal elliptical storm sewer at Blair St. and 5' X 11' storm box on Mills St that the sanitary siphons were built below. Siphons are not uncommon for a collection system but as you would expect, they require extensive cleaning to prevent blockages. Both of these siphons are in need of immediate repair. For private development, we have some key apartment complex planned occupancy dates to hit in May of 2025 that we need new sewers in place for. Lake Street Garage Redevelopment (Lake St. sewer) is under construction and will be wrapping up at the end of August, 2024. The sewer reroute on E. Washington Ave. for the Gardners Bakery Redevelopment has been bid and awarded. The Commercial Ave. (Hwy 30) sewer crossing is also associated with the Gardners Bakery site redevelopment, and it has also been bid. 838 Williamson Street (Paterson St Sewer Replacement) was bid. Fordem Ave.- First St. Sewer Replacement for 1617 Sherman Ave., will not be built in 2024 due to railroad p. Lift Stations Projects: Truax Lift Station Replacement construction is ongoing with completion set yet in 2024. The Badger Lift Station Replacement is not yet designed but construction is still planned for 2025.

Land Information/Official Map

Jeff Quamme, Section Manager

- Continuing work with Assessor's Office, Engineering Tech and IT to determine workflows for addressing and street name data.
- 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 as will be for many months.
- Private development with extensive land rights reviews, acquisitions and releases with Real Estate projects.
- Building setbacks per the Ordinance have been mapped. Will be working on determining validity and releases if needed.
- Checking and adding parcel mapping for future areas of Blooming Grove to attach in 2027
- Updating of base mapping to prioritize areas in need of adjustment spatially of areas that are not accurately mapped.

Engineering Technology

Candice Kasprzak, Engineering Technology Manager

- Revamping address point and storm billing workflows to work with new CAMA system
- Added all private development projects with plans issued for construction to ACC and meeting with Eng on workflows to build processes in ACC
- Carey completed DataCamp SQL training course and presented to the DataCamp group
- 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
- Getting set up for Power BI training and pilot in ACC
- 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 at City-wide data warehouse.

Administration Staff

Johanna Johnson, Heidi Fleege, Isaac Gabriel

Common Council dates and Board of Public Works dates for later part of September and early October:

- Common Council resolutions deadline is Tuesday, September 17, by 8 AM (for CC meeting on 9/24).
- Board of Public Works resolutions deadline is Wednesday, September 18, by NOON (for BPW meeting on 9/25).
- Common Council resolutions deadline is Tuesday, October 1, by 8AM (for CC meeting on 10/8).

- Board of Public Works resolutions deadline is Wednesday, October 2, by NOON (for BPW meeting on 10/9)

Finance

Steve Danner-Rivers, Financial Manager

Now that the 2025 Capital and Operating Budget request cycles are complete, the focus of the Finance section returns to 2024 and keeping things rolling toward yearend. All staff are asked to help identify any reimbursable costs that can be billed out now to reduce the workload later in the year. This would include things such as billable workorders, utility compensable work done by Public Works contracts and change orders that are the responsibility of other parties. It is also a good time of year to look into any consultant contracts to ensure that all work has been billed to the City and that any contracts where the work is complete are formally closed out.

Construction Inspection

John Fahrney, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

PW projects, private development projects and permits are ongoing.

Surveyors are working on preliminary surveys for 2025.

Inspectors are implementing ACC

Coming and Going

- New Hires
 - Nicholas Hammen
 - Patrick O'Neil
- Promotions
 - Flora Duran
 - Douglas Galban Esis
- Departures
 - Bryan Manning
 - Rachel Belohlavek
 - Timothy Affholder

GEAR: The Engineering Division Intranet Site

Don't forget to bookmark GEAR today!

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



Our Madison – Inclusive, Innovative & Thriving

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