

From: [Mohelnitzky, Hannah](#)
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Attachments: [image016.png](#)
[image018.png](#)
[image020.png](#)
[image022.png](#)
[image032.png](#)
[image025.png](#)
[image027.png](#)
[image029.png](#)
[image031.png](#)
[image034.png](#)
[image038.png](#)
[image042.png](#)

THE E.

A newsletter for the Engineering Division



July 2023 Issue

A message from City Engineer, Jim Wolfe

Engineering,

We have recently experienced some pretty awful air quality around Madison, and this brought to the forefront a couple of thoughts for me. One is that we will continue to feel the effects of climate change in many different ways, and our Division will need to remain adaptable to work to keep our City resilient but also to be able to perform that work in a way that keeps our staff and residents safe. Also, it's a good reminder about why our work, especially work related to resiliency and sustainability, is so important. I so appreciate everyone's flexibility and work during the recent Air Quality Advisory.

Here's what we did for field employees in Ops, Facilities, and Construction Inspection:

- Advised employees who work outdoors that the City's Safety Officer informed us that dust masks can mitigate the inhalation of the particles from Canadian wildfire and made masks available to employees have access to masks.
- Advised employees that similar to working in extreme heat, they should pace themselves and take breaks out of the elements (eg air-conditioned enclosed cab of their vehicle or equipment).
- Minimized assignments requiring extreme/prolonged exertion.
- Allowed employees who indicated they had health concerns to use paid leave to be off during these conditions.

On a different note, we're also in the midst of putting together our Operating Budget request for 2024. Given some of the current deficit that the City is facing, the overall ask is to find a modest 1% reduction. While I'm relatively new to the Operating Budget process, it's my understanding that this is a pretty modest request compared to past budgets and what we could be facing in the future.

GreenPower Team Visits Energy Fair in Custer, Wis., June 2023

City of Madison Engineering GreenPower team spent the day learning about sustainable projects, ideas and workshops in Custer, Wis., June 23, 2023. The [Midwest Renewable Energy Association \(MREA\)](#) hosts the annual Energy Fair. It is a place to celebrate and explore renewable energy and sustainable living. Each year the Fair brings 11,500+ attendees together to learn about clean energy, connect with others, and take action toward a just energy transition. Thank you to Engineering Master Electrician Matt Parks for coordinating team bonding, learning and excitement in a space that supports core City sustainable efforts!

30-Pound Turtle, Among Other Herptiles Moved Safely During Wexford Dredge Project Prep

Heartland's wildlife team has been busy protecting herptiles within the City of Madison through an exclusion and relocation effort. This work will help to avoid impacts to frogs and turtles during a planned dredging operation. Working with wildlife in an urban setting comes with various challenges; handling and capturing wildlife must be done properly.

One of the project managers Wes has an extensive background in wildlife management and has created a plan to limit the strain and stress on these amphibians during relocation. Methods used to catch the frogs and turtles include the use of exclusion fencing and trapping, specifically floating and hoop traps, as well as hand capture. These gentle trapping tactics prevent capture mortality and limit the animal's exposure to stress, predators, heat, and the public.

Photos 1 – 4: Pre-relocation, can you spot the froglet? Photo 5: A female Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) situated in her new habitat.



Equity Minute:

Engineering Equity Team Book Club kicks off first discussion; Join anytime!

Engineering Equity Team's book club met for the first time on June 20 to discuss the group's first selection, *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah.

The son of a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother, Noah was born into apartheid South Africa at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Through a series of stories, Noah shares his journey from mischievous young boy, to host of the Daily Show.

Book club participants noted learning more about apartheid. One of the themes discussed was how language accessibility is a privilege. Noah writes that South Africa has eleven official languages.

"After democracy came, people said, 'Okay, how do we create order without having different groups feel like they've been left out of power again?'"

Linking to the City's Racial Equity Social Justice Initiative (RESJ), the book club discussed how the City serves individuals with a primary language other than English. The City's language Access Plan¹ addresses the public's right to request accommodations, translation, and interpreter services; as well as a right to meaningful participation in City services, programs and activities. Discussion also included ways to promote language access and timeliness of providing information in multiple language formats.

Overall, *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* is a recommended read. Check out your library for a copy – and stay tuned for Engineering Equity Team's next book selection.

¹ City of Madison Language Access Plan:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/civil-rights/documents/CityofMadisonLanguageAccessPlan.pdf>

Use New IT Service Center Instead of Helpdesk

The IT Service Center is a one-stop-shop for requesting technology products and services. *IT launched the service center June 12. Now, employees should use the IT Service Center instead of emailing Help Desk.*

Watch an [Overview Video](#).

Signing In

The IT Service Center is available **without** a City network connection, but you will need to sign-in with your City network account to access the full benefits of the IT Service Center.

To sign-in, you will use your City email address (or other work domain, i.e. @publichealthmdc.com) and network password.

Example

Username: JDoe@cityofmadison.com

Password: NetworkPassword1!

The IT Service Center will also be accessible from any web browser, including on mobile devices!

Service Catalog

The IT Service Catalog is a list of the core services we offer. Each service has a description of our offerings, what to expect, and how to request the service offering. When you request services through our Service Catalog, your request is automatically routed to the appropriate team so we can get right to work!

Knowledge Base

The Knowledge Base is a growing list of knowledge articles organized in alignment with the IT Service Catalog. The Knowledge Base consists of self-service articles that range from user tip sheets, to policies and guidelines. Much of our content on IT EmployeeNet will now be found in this **searchable** Knowledge Base!

Reporting Incidents

Reporting incidents just got faster! **An incident is defined as a product or service you already have, but it's broken or not working properly.**

When you report incidents using the custom forms on the IT Service Center, your request is automatically directed to the responsible team so we can investigate the issue as soon as possible.

Viewing Your Tickets

While you will continue to receive email notifications about your active requests, you will also be able to view and track your tickets on the IT Service Center.

Desktop Shortcuts

To make your experience even smoother, IT will deploy desktop shortcuts to all City machines with direct links to the IT Service Center and Training so you have everything you need, right when you need it.



Quarterly Vision Zero Newsletter Out Now

The third issue of 2023 for Madison's Vision Zero [Quarterly Newsletter](#) looks at the work of Madison's Vision Zero initiative and discusses the current progress of some safety projects and programs, upcoming events and community outreach purpose and opportunities.

This edition of the newsletter features articles on the following topics:

- Hammersley Road Resurface Project
- Speeding, Harsh Breaking, and Hard Acceleration at the City of Madison
- Community Meetings, What you Should Know!
- Walking School Buses
- Second Round of Safety Saturday and Parks Alive
- Parks Alive Schedule of Events

Manager 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

June flew by with lots of media requests about construction projects and more. We're also working on special promotions for Wisconsin Stormwater Week with blogs, a special rain mural contest with the community and more promotion of our work. More to come on that in the coming weeks. Alli has been doing a great job with social media for the division, writing blogs and writing articles for Waterways 2023. Thank you to everyone who helped with information sharing, responding and virtual meetings with her during her time with us! We also went to the energy fair with the GreenPower Crew in Custer, Wis., what an awesome event with so many ideas! Thank you to Matt Parks for bringing so much energy toward education in this area for our teams!

Public Works and Private Development

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

Public works engineers are continuing to work on 2023 and beyond projects. Private development engineers and managers continue to service contracts and issue plan sets. Plans issued this month include Willard/Hudson/Sommers/Center, 5604 Schroeder Rd, Ohmeda Dr, 3005 University Ave 2023 Bridge Repairs. John Nolen Dr project geometry was approved by Transportation Commission & Board of Public Works. A significant revision to ordinance 16.23 which specifies street and roadway dimensions for new developments was approved by the Board of Public Works.

Facilities Management

Bryan Cooper, Deputy City Engineer, Facilities Services and Management

- 2023 GreenPower solar PV installation work underway at Fire Station 08, and finishing Streets West and Fleet.
- Construction underway at [Streets West Badger Salt Barn](#). NEW PICS added to project site!
- Proceeding with CCB remodels construction (Assessor/Clerk/Treasurer/OIM/Common Council). [Link to project page](#).
- Proceeding with construction contracts for [Royal Thai Pavilion roof replacement/restoration](#), and [Door Creek Park Pavilion](#).
- Bidding [Tenney Park Beach Shelter](#).

Continue design work for [Bartillon Shelter, Streets – Waste Transfer – Public Drop Off Access and Flatwork Improvements](#), [Imagination Center at Reindahl Park](#), [State Street Campus Garage Mixed Use Development](#), [WPCRC Expansion](#), [Madison Public Market](#), [Metro – Satellite Facility](#).

Operations – Sewer and Stormwater Utilities

Kathy Cryan, Deputy Division Manager, Operations, Admin, and Personnel

MI-TE Update. The MI-TE crew is off to a good start! As of the end of June the crew had removed and installed 1,475.5 SF. The average cost per square foot was \$31.42 average cost per SF and includes costs for labor, equipment, and materials. The crew also installed 7 BRT bus pads. The average cost for these was \$28.80 per SF. The 2021 Citywide contract cost for this work was \$25/square foot. Our costs include root cutting, erosion control, restoration, etc. which are additional costs when performed by contract. When factoring in these extra items the MI-TE crew is proving it is already cost competitive with private contractors. And as we gain more experience and become more efficient, I'd expect our unit cost to come down a bit. So, hats off to the MI-TE crew for a great start!

June Kudos! Sharing a couple of Kudos received from our residents this past month.

- *“City of Madison services are awesome. In the past, I have reported sidewalk concerns, dog barking concerns, driver concerns, forestry concerns, and this morning I had to report a dead animal concern. Every single department has responded to me in a lightening-speed manner. I'm so impressed by response and quality of your staff's work. Please, please let all your departments and staff know what a great job they do! Thank you.”*
- *“Good morning. I would like to thank your Engineering Department for sending two of their kindest and most considerate workers to the East side of Madison this morning for a baby duck rescue. I don't know their names, but the team of two did not make me feel foolish for putting effort into rescuing one tiny little duck. They said they do it all the time. They even came with a net and a box to put it in. The worker here made it look so easy to move the grate.”*

New Supervisor. Jason Kelley has joined our Operations supervisors as a Public Works Foreperson. Jason's primary responsibilities are CCTV inspection and trenchless rehab.

Upcoming Promotional Opportunities. We will be posting for CCTV Technicians (2), Operator 2s (2), and Leadworker 2 in the near future. Make sure to let your supervisor know if you are interested in any of these promotional opportunities so we can work to get you training and assigned to work out-of-class. This is a great opportunity to see if you enjoy the type of work the position does. We will also be looking for people interested in being trained to inspect the trenchless lining work being done under Public Works contracts. Again, reach out to your supervisor to let them know if you are interested.

Stormwater

Janet Schmidt, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

The Lower Badger Mill Creek ponds just west of Hawks Landing are also under construction now. A new roadway is in design and construction will begin in 2024. This will connect the Hawks Landing neighborhood to Meadow Road and over our new bridge that is getting built now. Robin Greenway is getting advertised soon, which will replace a very steep, eroded and somewhat questionable ravine at Orchard Rd by installing and extending a new box culvert. The project will also create a maintenance path for our operations staff. That project was a great example of taking a very bad situation (wind storm that had a significant amount of tree damage in 2022) and working with the neighborhood on a positive project for the area. Wexford pond dredge is also getting advertised now. Our frog and turtle relocation consultants are busy working on re-homing some of our friends to new locations so they aren't disturbed during their hibernation period when the pond is getting dredged. There are several other public meetings coming up this summer that will keep projects moving forward, including several watershed studies. Designers are still very busy but finding time for vacations so they can hit the ground running during the fall and winter design season. Thanks to all the sewer and storm sewer staff for all the amazing work!

Sanitary Sewer

Mark Moder, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

The City street projects for 2023 have been designed and are now under construction or will be under construction soon. Design staff are working on plan revisions to projects as utility conflicts with the proposed storm and sanitary improvements are discovered. There are only a few stand-alone sanitary sewer projects remaining for 2023: Parkside Drive sewer, & one sewer lining project.

Lift Station Projects: Harper Lift Station (replacement) is just about done. Thurber is being held up by equipment issues and will not be under construction until August. The third lift station replacement project, Truax Lift Station, is now under contract but will not begin until 2024. Private development work (lot redevelopment and plat work) continues to be steady with sewer design staff staying on schedule for sewer extension permitting. We are seeing new apartment developments requiring sewer upgrades to larger diameter sewers. Some of these projects will be City bid sewer projects - Lake Street Garage Redevelopment, Gardners Bakery Redevelopment. Finally, we are currently advertising for a new utility design engineer for the sewer section to fill the position vacated by Matt Allie.

Land Information/Official Map

Jeff Quamme, Section Manager

- RFP for Relocation Order to acquire lands for excess cut disposal site on the east side
- Coordination of Real Estate projects for several engineering projects
- Official Map starting a program to modernize, compliance updates and improve accuracy of the 174 electronic tiles used for base mapping
- Ongoing (will be a while) review and modification of addressing data to be used by Dane County 911.
- Continued work on internal Engineering address policy and procedures
- Private development in the City of Madison. Several projects requiring extensive land right reviews, acquisitions and releases.
- Also continued maintenance and addresses within the City along with storm water impervious billing information.

Engineering Technology

Candice Kasprzak, Engineering Technology Manager

- Continue developing workflow with Dane County and the Land Information section on getting address points QC'd/sent out to E911
- Working with other Public Works agencies for new Digger's Hotline Software
- Finalizing data conversion from Pipelogix to ITPipes
- Finalizing Sewer AI (software that codes our CCTV)
- Migrating facility's work order system (FAMIS) to CityWorks
- Starting new Facilities Management projects in Autodesk Construction Cloud. The Bartillon shelter is being used to pilot ACC for design. Fire Station 4 Lighting Upgrades and the Door Creek Park Shelter are first construction projects using ACC.
- Start work with Construction Inspection in 4th quarter to configure Autodesk Construction Cloud 2023
- Sanitary & Storm record updates – working on sanitary and storm backlog
- Ongoing - Setting up CAD standards, templates and efficiency improvements.

Administration Staff

Johanna Johnson and Heidi Fleegel

- CC resolution due dates were due END OF DAY on: July 3 (7/11 CC), July 18 (7/25 CC)
- BPW resolution due date is noon on: July 12, (7/19 BPW)
- 7/4 was a holiday. Use Holiday pay code.
- The CC and BPW only meet once in August. Plan accordingly:
 - CC resolution due date is END OF DAY on: July 25 (8/1 CC)
 - BPW resolution due date is noon on: August 16 (8/23 BPW)

Finance

Steve Danner-Rivers, Financial Manager

The Finance section is currently working on the Operating Budget for 2024 which officially kicked off on 6/20 and is due on 7/21. We are also analyzing 2023 expenditures to identify any budgetary issues that can be included in the citywide budget amendment done as part of the mid-year projections. Engineering's borrowing request for 2023 was recently submitted and is being reviewed by the Finance Department. The conversion to Kronos for downtown payroll timekeeping continues to be a focus as the final group (Sewer section) is transitioning to Kronos with the pay period starting 7/23.

Construction Inspection

John Fahrney, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

There are permits, private development projects, PW and WISDOT projects in progress. Surveyors are working on preliminary surveys for 2023.

Eric Hoel has retired as a Construction Inspector 2. Eric has been a valued member of the construction section since 2002 and will be missed.

Media Roundup

News Releases:

- [City Asks For Volunteers to Help with Spongy Moth Outbreak](#) posted July 3, 2023
- [Upcoming Atwood Avenue Traffic Switch Happening Next Week](#) posted June 23, 2023
- [Support Local Businesses in the Heat of Construction Season](#) posted June 15, 2023
- [Parts of E. Washington Avenue to Close Friday](#) posted June 13, 2023

Blog:

- [Plant of the Week: Purple Prairie Clover](#)
- [Learn about Engineering's Honey Bees](#)
- [Plant of the Week: Amorpha Canescens](#)
- [Happy National Pollinator Week!](#)
- [Plant of the Week: Echinacea Pallida](#)
- [Alli's Perspective: A Ride in the Big Green Vector!](#)
- [Missed Bike Week? Learn About Upcoming Bike Projects](#)
- [Plant of the Week: Prairie Phlox](#)
- [Plant of the Week: Cow Parsnip](#)

Podcast: Everyday Engineering

Running on Wisconsin Soybeans and more!

What in the world would soybeans have anything to do with the City of Madison Fleet Services? Way more than you probably know! City of Madison Engineering Division Public Information Officer Hannah Mohelnitzky hosts City of Madison Fleet Superintendent Mahanth Joishy to talk about all the ways the City of Madison is trying to use soybeans to help the environment., from biodiesel to soybean tires on police cars, you'll learn something new in this episode guaranteed!

Listen and subscribe: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/madisons-everyday-engineering/id1476609194>

Other recent new episodes:

- [A 'MITE' Idea: New Way To Get Into the Infrastructure Industry](#)
- [A seed that keeps growing: City of Madison, Wis.](#)
- [City of Madison to build its first purpose-built shelter: Bartillon Shelter](#)
- [Orange Barrels: Hammersley Road](#)

Coming and Going

New Hires

- Gerrit Brinkman, Engineering Assistant - Construction Inspection
- Danielle Dixon, Engineering HR Coordinator - Operations
- Joseph Eichstaedt, Architectural Associate 2 - Facilities
- Margarita Rivera, Custodial Worker 1 - Facilities

Promotions

- Chuck Corbett, HVAC Technician 2 - Facilities

- Jason Kelley, Public Works Foreperson 1 - Operations
- Lindsey Krey, Leadworker 1 - Operations

Departures

- David Degolyer, Leadworker 1 - Operations
- Eric Hoel, Construction Inspector 2 - Construction Inspection
- Jadon Swan, GreenPower Trainee
- Rashaun Taylor, Street & Sewer Maintenance Worker 1 - Operations

Interview/Offer Process

- Accountant Trainee - Operations
- HVAC/R Technician/Trainee - Facilities

Posted

- Engineer 2 or 3 – Sewer & Stormwater

Upcoming Postings

- CCTV Technician – Operations
- Construction Inspector 1 - Construction Inspection
- Engineering Assistant 1 or 2 Hrly - Construction Inspection
- Custodial Worker 1 - Facilities GreenPower Trainee Hrly - Facilities
- GreenPower Trainee LTE - Facilities
- Leadworker 2 Trainee - Operations
- Program Assistant 1 – Main Office Admin
- Street & Sewer Machine Operator 2 - Operations

Our Madison – Inclusive, Innovative & Thriving

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